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## CONCERNING DEGREES.

The measure providing for a regulation of academic degrees in the State of Illinois, prepared by President Henry Wade Rogers of Evanston, and recently introduced into the Legislature through his initiative, marks the first serious attempt to do away with what has long been a great evil and a scandal to the good name of the State. For several years past, Chicago has harbored certain institutions, existing chiefly on paper, incorporated under the lax educational statutes of the commonwealth, and engaged in the nefarious business of furnishing academic or professional degrees to all applicants offering the stipulated consideration in cold cash. These rascally traffickers in titles to distinction have published their alluring offers far and wide, and have found gullible victims in considerable numbers, mostly in other States and other lands. A number of Englishmen, for example, have become bachelors or doctors of these bogus institutions, and the swindle has attracted enough attention to be made a subject of inquiry in the English Parliament. It is certainly time that the abuse should be ended, and the measure to which we have referred is designed to accomplish that desirable purpose.

In general terms, it is proposed that the granting of degrees in Illinois be restricted to institutions of approved educational standing, and to this end a State Commission is to be established, with power to pass upon the claims and pretensions of institutions that wish to bestow degrees upon their students. So far, the proposed measure corresponds to the sort of regulation that already obtains in other States, and that has been enforced with such conspicuous success in the State of New York. Further, it is proposed that, in the case of colleges to be incorporated in the future, a minimum endowment of one hundred thousand dollars shall be an imperative condition of the degree-conferring power. There is also the wise proviso that degrees may not be granted by any institutions carried on for private gain. It is extremely desirable that the measure which embodies these salutary provisions should be given statutory force by the present Legislature; and we urge upon everyone interested

in the cause of serious education, as distinguished from sham education, to lend his influence to the enactment of the proposed law. A great many narrow and selfish interests — to say nothing of dishonest interests — will be arrayed against it, and the work of distortion and misrepresentation, which began as soon as the measure was made public, will create an opposition not easily to be overcome. Yet the good name and the dignity of the State demand that the title-factories should be suppressed, demand that every degree henceforth granted under the authority of Illinois should stand for good work done, or, in the case of the honorary degree, for an achievement judged to be worthy by some reputable institution of learning.

For the weak-minded persons who are willing to purchase the fraudulent degrees so obligingly offered we must confess that we have little sympathy. It is a pitiful form of vanity to which the allurements of the diploma-shops appeal, and we are not particularly concerned to protect that sort of ambition from the consequences of its own foolishness. But the public has a right to be protected from charlatans of all descriptions, and the granting of a degree is an act that touches public interests so nearly that the process should be hedged about with all reasonable restrictions. Indeed, the provisions of the proposed legislation seem to us to err, if anything, upon the side of leniency, and we view with no little suspicion the stipulation of one hundred thousand dollars as the minimum endowment of degree-conferring institutions hereafter to be incorporated. The New York requirement of five times this endowment seems to be the wiser provision of the two, for surely the latter sum is none too large for the needs of any new college that would be a desirable addition to those we already have in this State. It is to be noted that the bill is not made retroactive in this matter of endowment, so that no injustice to existing institutions would result from its enactment.

The desire to parade a degree of some kind is, no doubt, one more illustration of the instinct that has created orders of nobility in the older civilizations, that has given Frenchmen the mania for decorations, and made Germans such sticklers for the use of whatever official titles they may bear. The American character is popularly supposed to have risen above these vanities, but this is only a superstition. The desire of the individual to be in some way dis-

tinguished from his fellows is so inherent in the human nature which all peoples have in common, that, if denied vent in one direction, it will find it in another — that, if not allowed the gewgaws of knighthood and rank, it will find a substitute in the mock distinctions that come from membership in societies which shall here be nameless, but of which no reader will have to look far for as many examples as he needs. Of course, the ambition to possess an academic degree is a shade worthier than the ambition to be a Grand Commander of something or other, or to sport the proud badge of the Scions of Colonial Tax-Gatherers. The former ambition betrays, at least, some trace of the feeling that intellectual distinctions have more intrinsic worth than any others; yet even in this case how often is it true that the external mark of the distinction is the thing sought after, rather than the powers for which it should rightfully stand.

The full force of this observation requires for its realization that we take into account not only the poor souls who stand ready to purchase degrees outright at the current market rates, but also those who bid for them indirectly, who make gifts to colleges, for example, anticipating in return the honorary doctorate. We look with righteous scorn upon the English ministry that is willing to traffic in titles of nobility — making peers out of brewers and stockbrokers whose political contributions have been sufficiently liberal — and how much more contemptible is the action of the American college that is willing to degrade in similar fashion the titles of intellectual aristocracy which it ought to guard as a sacred trust. There is a good deal that might be said also about the motives of those who earn their degrees in legitimate ways. Many students seem to think that getting a degree is the be-all and the end-all of college life. "Will it count for a degree?" is the question they ask when some new kind of work is recommended to them. Every teacher knows this spirit, and knows how deadly an enemy it is of all culture for the sake of culture. If the spectacle of young men and young women actuated mainly by this motive is a disheartening one, a spectacle even more disheartening is offered by those students of advanced age who so often are found in the classes of our larger universities, and who are so obviously out of place there. We make no reference to men and women seeking to round out, in later life, the defective education of their youth. Their pathetic case calls for nothing but sym-

pathy and respect. We do, however, refer to those who, having got far beyond the period of their lives when training of the university type was what they most needed, submit themselves to that training for the sake of its prizes. It is not the best sort of discipline for them; it is intellectually wasteful rather than economical; nothing but the incentive of the doctorate impels them to undergo it; the act is, in short, an unworthy concession to an artificial standard of culture.

It is this tendency to make a fetish of the degree—as if there were no other possible criterion of a man's attainments—that is responsible, on the one hand, for the disreputable business of diploma-selling, and, on the other, for the spectacle of graybeards engaged in the performance of tasks fitted only for youth. If a fictitious value were not attached to degrees in the pedagogical estimation, we should have neither the one nor the other of these evils to deplore. The common university attitude toward degrees is not unsuggestive of the attitude of the church toward the consecration of priests: it is tacitly assumed that the scholarship has no validity which is not thus certified at the hands of men who have themselves gone through the academic routine and received the consecrating cowl. Yet the cowl no more makes the scholar than it does the monk. Again, those who are banded together by the common possession of degrees, especially if they are engaged in the professional work of education, are too apt to assume an attitude similar to that assumed by trade unions toward the outsider. They seem to say that, whatever distinction a man may have achieved in irregular and unorthodox ways, he cannot really be a superior person, because he has dared to court fame while forsaking the beaten path. The tendencies which we have thus noted do not often go to the extremes of arrogance or fatuousness, but they go farther than they should be allowed to, and they sometimes work grave injustice. The president of one of our leading universities spoke, a few years ago, of the Roman emperor who wished that all his enemies had a single neck that he might cut it off at one stroke, and then said that, for his part, he wished that all degrees had a single neck that a single blow might put an end to them. While we should hardly express our own opinion in so hot a fashion as this, we can neither help feeling a certain sympathy with the utterance, nor help sharing in the indignation by which it was inspired.

#### RECENT SCHOOL LEGISLATION FOR CITIES.

When the article entitled "City School Systems" appeared in *THE DIAL* (Oct. 16, 1898), I hoped at no distant day to return to the subject, going more into detail, but dealing with it in a less critical and in a more constructive way. Such an article I thought might, at the present stage of discussion, prove helpful to some readers; but now that the time to carry out this plan has come, I am persuaded that a still better one will be to review, in a general way, some recent school legislation that illustrates the later movements of public thought.

The first act of legislation to be noticed related to the city of Cincinnati, where, as was widely believed at the time, the evils of the old system had become intolerable and the need of reform very urgent. In 1887 the General Assembly of Ohio enacted that henceforth the superintendent of the public schools of Cincinnati should appoint all the teachers of said schools, by and with the advice and consent of the board of education, and that the board or superintendent might remove teachers for cause. It will be seen that this is putting the superintendent and the board in the same relation to appointments that the President and Senate of the United States occupy, as prescribed by the Constitution, in relation to appointments in the National service. The superintendent nominates teachers to the board, which confirms or rejects the person or persons nominated; but if the board rejects one of the superintendent's nominees, it can do nothing toward filling the place until the superintendent sends in a second nomination. As we shall see, this method of appointing teachers has since been adopted in other cities. This law made no other change in the administration of the Cincinnati schools.

The Reorganization Act for the Board of Education of Cleveland, passed in 1892, was a far more radical piece of legislation than the one just considered. It is, indeed, the most radical act of the kind that has been passed for any city up to date, and deserves the careful study of all men who are interested in the reform of city school administration. As amended, this act offers to our consideration the following principal features:

1. The board of education consists of a school council and a school director.
2. The legislative power and authority of the city school district is vested in a school council of seven members, elected biennially for the city at large in two groups consisting of three and four members each, who receive each a compensation of \$240 annually. They are chosen by the legally qualified electors for school purposes. All legislation enacted by this council is by resolution; and every resolution involving expenditure of money or the approval of a contract for the payment of money, or for the purchase, sale, lease, or transfer of property or levying any tax, or for the change or adoption of any



text-book, must, before it takes effect, be presented certified to the school director for his approval. If the director approves of the resolution, he shall sign it, and it becomes law; but if he does not approve it, and refuses to sign it, he shall return it with his objections to the council, and it can then become law only when it receives the votes of two-thirds of all the members. The council has power to provide for the appointment of all necessary teachers and employees, and prescribes their duties and fixes their compensation.

3. The executive power is vested in a school director, who, like the members of the council, is elected on a city ticket by the qualified voters of the city, and, like them, holds his office for the term of two years. He is required to devote his entire time to the duties of his office, and he receives a salary, fixed by law, of \$5000 a year. The duties of the director in regard to purchasing property, entering into contracts, building buildings, making repairs, providing supplies, etc., are important, but do not come within the range of this article. It will be seen that the director is wholly independent of the council, standing to the people of the city in precisely the same relation as the members of the council themselves.

4. The provisions of the law relative to the appointment and duties of the superintendent of instruction are so important that I shall quote the entire section that contains them.

"Sec. 10. The school director shall, subject to the approval of and confirmation by the council, appoint a superintendent of instruction, who shall remain in office during good behavior, and the school director may at any time, for sufficient cause, remove him; but the order for such removal shall be in writing, specifying the cause therefor, and shall be entered upon the records of his office; and he shall forthwith report the same to the council, together with the reasons therefor. The superintendent of instruction shall have the sole power to appoint and discharge all assistants and teachers authorized by the council to be employed, and shall report to the school director in writing annually, and oftener if required, as to all matters under his supervision, and may be required by the council to attend any or all of its meetings, and, except as otherwise provided in this act, all employees of the board of education shall be appointed or employed by the school director. He shall report to the council annually, or oftener if required, as to all matters under his supervision. He shall attend all meetings of the council and may take part in its deliberations, subject to its rules, but shall not have the right to vote."

5. The auditor of the city is the auditor of the board of education.

This important enactment has exerted a considerable influence upon subsequent legislation, although it has not been copied in its most radical features.

A law to reorganize the school system of the city of St. Louis passed the State legislature in 1897. According to this law the superintendent of instruction is appointed by the board of education, which consists of twelve members, for a term of four years, during which term his compensation cannot be reduced. On his nomination, the board appoints as many assistant superintendents as it deems necessary, and they may be removed by him with the board's approval. The superintendent has general

supervision, subject to the control of the board, of the course of instruction, discipline, and conduct of the schools, of text-books and studies; and all appointments, promotions, and transfers of teachers, and introduction and changes of text-books and apparatus, are made only upon his recommendation.

One more act may be mentioned, that for Toledo, passed in 1898. The city board of education consists of five members, elected for the city at large by the electors who are qualified to vote at school elections, to serve for the term of five years. Only such persons can have their names put on the official ballot, and receive votes, as are endorsed in writing for members of the board to the city board of elections by two hundred of the legal voters of the city (as above), of either sex, not less than ten days previous to the election. The names of all persons who are thus certified, the board of elections must publish in the daily papers, and prepare ballots containing them, which ballots must be voted at the annual municipal election and be deposited in a separate ballot-box provided for this purpose. Every elector may vote for as many of the candidates on the ballot as there are members to be elected. This provision in regard to making up the official ballot is believed to be a novel feature. The superintendent of instruction has the power to appoint, subject to the approval and confirmation of the board, all teachers authorized to be employed.

The tendencies of recent school legislation makes some things very clear, the more important of which may well be set down in numbered order.

1. There is a strong and a growing conviction in the minds of the people most interested, that the old-fashioned system of school provision, maintenance, and administration is not now adapted to existing conditions, and must be thrown aside as obsolete. At least, it is very clear that such is the case in the cities that have been passed in review, for the thing has already been done.

2. While the new laws show considerable differences in details, there is nevertheless a substantial agreement upon the main points. One of these points is that the old board of education was too large, was too carelessly selected, and exercised powers that were both too many and too much diversified. A second point is that the board should be practically kept within legislative limits, and not be allowed to roam at will, directly or indirectly, over the whole field of administration. The third point, and perhaps the most important of all, is that executive powers and duties should be entrusted to properly qualified executive departments or officers, that should have a status clearly recognized by law, and so be independent, to a greater or less extent, of the action of the board. Every one of these new laws recognizes two such departments, and the Cleveland law recognizes three. The latter would seem to be the proper number. In a report submitted to the National Council of Education in 1888, I contended that there should be three executive departments: the Department of Finance, Ac-



counts, and Records; the Department of Construction, Repairs, and Supplies; the Department of Instruction and Discipline. I contended, further, that the heads of these departments might be called the auditor, the superintendent of construction, and the superintendent of schools; and that they should be men of decided ability and character, having each an expert knowledge of the important duties committed to their charge. Such modification of this recommendation as is suggested by the school director of Cleveland and the business manager of some of the other cities is perhaps a desirable modification of my former plan.

On one point the testimony, so far as it goes, is quite conclusive; namely, the great evils that have affected the public schools, so far as they originated on the business side of the city system, are mainly due to the composition, character, and methods of school boards. Of course, conditions existing in the cities must be taken into the account; for the problem of city school reform is most distinctly a part of the great American problem of the reform of municipal government.

The argument could be strengthened by taking account of reform movements that have not yet crystallized into legislation. Mention may be made of Boston, where the subject of reorganization on new lines has attracted sufficient attention to bring it before the State legislature. The Report of the Chicago School Commission has already been made the subject of an elaborate editorial article in this journal. The two largest cities of Michigan, Detroit and Grand Rapids, are now moving to bring the reorganization of their school systems before the legislature at the present session. No doubt there are other movements that have escaped my notice. The general subject is sure to attract the increasing attention of the public mind for some time to come. What the final type of school organization for an American city will be, I do not undertake to say; indeed, there is no reason to think that there will be, in a close sense of the term, a single type of system; but there is little room to doubt that the recent legislation which has been reviewed has been on lines that the future will approve.

B. A. HINSDALE.

#### COMMUNICATIONS.

##### WHY IS POE "REJECTED" IN AMERICA?

(To the Editor of THE DIAL.)

A writer who is a "logic machine," who is marked by "lack of humor" and "deficient knowledge of human nature," is hardly fitted to secure lodgment in the American heart, though he be "the greatest intellect America has produced — assuredly the best artist." The writer on Poe, in your issue of Jan. 16, should hardly wonder at the rejection of such a writer, however he may regret it. But, as he seems to remain puzzled by the fact, it may be worth while to point out two peculiarities of the writings of Poe, pervading them all, though more notice-

able in his prose tales than in his poems, — peculiarities which, as I happen to know, have prevented some readers who fully appreciate his marvellous mastery of literary form from taking much delight in him.

He is astonishingly unrealistic: it is utterly impossible to persuade oneself to care much for the outcome of his fictions, because we cannot bring ourselves to that degree of faith in them which is necessary for sympathy. A rapid review of a few typical tales will make this plain; and it will be most satisfactory to select for that purpose the seven tales lately edited by Professor Perry — for Poe is entitled to be judged by his best.

No house ever fell after the manner of the "Fall of the House of Usher"; the assertion is true of the story as a whole, and of the details generally, from the queer observations made by the narrator as he approached the house to its final sinking. The weakness of "Ligeia" lies not in its being a study of an impossible problem — the return to life, in another person's body, of a woman long dead, — but in the unreality of the scenery amid which, following his usual taste, the struggle is located. The process by which the victim in "The Cask of Amontillado" is lured to his doom is certainly thought out by a "logic machine," but the only motive for the horrible crime is the difference between being injured and insulted, — disposed of in one sentence of twenty-one words. To secure for the story that moderate amount of credence which is required for fiction, the author should have enlarged upon the insult enough to make it seem possible that such revenge could be taken by a human being. Shakespeare did not lead up to the murder of Desdemona by saying in one short sentence that Othello suspected Cassio. A similar absence of reported motive makes it impossible to sympathize with the couple who made an "Assignment" to meet in suicide. We could care for them by first getting to have faith in them; we might actually wish that their proposed elopement from life might not be thwarted, if we knew enough about their past lives and relationships to feel that they had indeed become inseparable. The "Manuscript found in a Bottle" reports dream-storms and dream-waves. The particular "Black Cat" of the tale has a way of coming to life after being killed that reminds us of the other cat which, the day after being beheaded, appeared at the door carrying its head in its mouth. The investigations of the hero of "The Gold Bug," though certainly told by a perfect "logic machine," carry not the slightest conviction, as is discovered by the reader who notices that he remains perfectly passive; he does not share the excitement of the digger for the hid treasure, — does not care whether the spade turns up gold or sand. And as to the cryptogram, we all feel from the very start that it is a "put-up job."

This strange lack of realism, or naturalness, in all Poe's writings — for it characterizes his poetry also — doubtless results from his "deficient knowledge of human nature." And "this effect defective comes by cause." It is originally due to a deficient interest in morals. It is a sort and a degree of deficiency that becomes a defect in art; for it is severe criticism on a man's artistic quality to assert that his work is not so grounded on the passions of mankind as to carry the reader through to the end with a vitalizing interest in the outcome. This assertion of the artistic importance of morals is frequently misunderstood: it has become almost a fashion to misinterpret it. It is supposed to imply only a desire for didactic morality; but it is simply a demand for moral motive as the impelling power of human ac-

tion. We do not demand of Poe, or of any other literary man, that he write goody-goody tales, that he aim to show "young persons" how to live, or mistake Sunday-school books for a high type of literature. We only remember that men are supremely interested in the moral aspects of life, so that the way to interest one's fellows is to appeal to moral motives. It is a maxim of art, which should be familiar to every artist in whatsoever medium he works, that the moral creates enthusiasm and so secures belief. In point of fact, literary illusion is obtained by moral warmth rather than by clear-cut logical consistency.

The absence of the moral element from Poe's writings will appear the moment one attempts to state the subjects of his tales in moral terms. Shakespeare's "Macbeth" is a study of the effect upon a man under temptation of the assurance that he can succeed by crime — the co-working of fatalism and ill-desire. Hawthorne's "The Birthmark" works out the results of impatience with a slight blemish in what is otherwise perfect. The "Fall of the House of Usher" might have shown how gloomy anticipations tend to fulfil themselves, if the author had not involved stone and mortar in the ruin. The problem of "Ligeia" — the victory of will over death, — can be stated, and there would have been a satisfactory basis for the action, if Poe could have kept to the subject — if he had not, as is his wont, over-emphasized the eyes, the squirming draperies, and other such details, and if he had not confused all moral sense by the notion that there was something criminal in taking a bride into such an apartment. If the murder included in "The Black Cat" is not utterly motiveless, it is at least to be hoped that a long time must pass before men take to wife — murder with no more rational promptings thereto. Comparison of "The Gold Bug" with Stevenson's "Treasure Island" reveals at once the defect in Poe: Stevenson leads his reader gradually up to interest in the success of the quest, and arouses a distinctly moral prejudice, to which much of our interest is due; we take sides against the party among whom are to be found some of the most cruel of the pirates who had by murder and pillage gathered the treasure.

I do not care to weigh against each other Poe's wonderful linguistic perfection and his weakness in that part of art which has to do with the gathering and marshalling of fact and motives. I only wish to remind those who are charmed by his mastery of the resources of speech that it is vain to expect our people, for the present at least, to overlook the absence of moral motive and of consequent realism. For the present: if the time ever comes when the creations of the opium-eater's imagination are actually born into the world and live out their careers, they will be apt to take him "home to their business and bosoms," — at least they will admire the prophetic genius which enabled him to write their biographies beforehand.

A. C. BARROWS.

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 7, 1893.

#### SOME CAUSES OF "THE AMERICAN REJECTION OF POE."

(To the Editor of THE DIAL.)

Is it altogether a matter of unfairness and prejudice that American readers as a rule make little of Poe? Surely Griswold's misrepresentations have been so often and so convincingly answered by Poe's friends and acquaintances that no serious student of American letters is influenced by their manifest injustice. Does not the real reason lie deeper — in the nature of the poet him-

self, and in that of the nation which, as a rule, does not read him?

In fact, your contributor who deplors Poe's non-appreciation by the mass of his countrymen has himself supplied several good reasons for it. One is his fatal lack of humor. Let us take as an example the opening lines "To Helen":

"I saw thee once — once only — years ago;  
I must not say *how* many — but *not* many," —

where the attempt at playfulness, taken in connection with the rest of the poem, produces an effect that is neither more nor less than ludicrous. No man with the faintest sense of humor could have been guilty of a blunder like that. Now, humor is a warm-hearted, kindly quality, which endears a man to his fellows. He who does not in some degree possess it must makeshift as best he can to dwell in a world apart from human-kind; and however this world may be lighted by poetic fancy and adorned by imagination, it will after all be only a cold moonlit region whose beauty will never compensate for its loneliness. George Eliot has told us that "there is no strain on friendship like a difference of taste in jokes," and this is one explanation of the distance between Poe and the public whom he failed to reach: they had no common ground whereon to stand long enough to become acquainted with each other.

Poe had in him, it is true, "something exotic which hinted of another clime and age." Had he lived in Persia one or two thousand years ago, some enterprising Orientalist might have discovered him, and translated his writings for the benefit of a small but enthusiastic circle of readers, and publishers might have brought out his works in beautifully bound and illustrated *éditions de luxe*. There is scarcely another nineteenth century author whose works afford scope for greater originality in illustration.

Poe has certain qualities that the most unkindly critics cannot deny him: weird and powerful imagination, constructive ability, and exquisite melody of expression in both prose and verse. His perception and handling of tone-color are unsurpassed by even the greatest of literary artists. There are certain lines of his that linger in the memory because of their perfect beauty of sound, while others come back frequently because of the pictures they suggest. But to many readers, the realization of Poe's artistic genius is only another source of vexation. Great poetry must have great subjects. Perfection of form is not enough, — although, in spite of Whitman and his followers, some readers will continue to think beauty of form one of the essentials of genuine poetry. The great poet, however, the poet who lives in the hearts of his own countrymen and wins for himself a lasting place in the affections of mankind, must voice in some effective manner the feelings and thoughts common to humanity. This Poe does not do. As he does not laugh with those that laugh, neither does he weep with those that weep. His weeping he does all by himself. In fact, his most musical dirges, with their refrains of "the lost Lenore," "beautiful Annabel Lee," and "Ulalume," seem less like the expression of real sorrow than complex and finished studies in minor chords. One's heart is not touched by them as by such simple lines as those in "After the Burial":

"There's a little ridge in the churchyard  
Would scarce stay a child in its race,  
But to me and my thought it is wider  
Than the star-sown vague of space."

This quatrain is a sincere and beautiful expression of

human experience. No heart that has shrunk before the mystery of death can fail to vibrate in response to it. Even pagan Horace appeals to us more than Poe, when he says, with sturdy manliness:

"The sorrow that we cannot cure may yet  
Be lessened by that strength of heart  
That in all trials of our life endures."

We are a strenuous race, we Anglo-Normans, and this girding-up of the loins of the soul in the face of bereavement has for us far more of pathos than the most musical outpourings of self-pity. Herein is Poe's vital defect: he indulges too much in self-pity, and is too little moved by the sorrows and burdens of the world.

Poe himself says that "a poem deserves its title only inasmuch as it excites by elevating the mind." Whether or not it be a defect in our make-up, it must be acknowledged that for the most part Americans, while we may be refreshed and soothed by poems which give us "pure beauty" and nothing else, are elevated only by those which voice the experiences of our common humanity, or call us to high endeavor. And is not one or the other or both of these elements to be found in all poems which have outlasted the century wherein they were produced?

Victor Hugo has told us that "while the poet needs wings, he must also have feet"; he must touch the earth occasionally, must come near to us, if he would persuade us to follow him into the blue ether. So, notwithstanding Poe's many and varied gifts of the intellect, the poet of our hearts will for a long time continue to be some other than the poet of "Lenore."

CAROLINE SHELDON.

Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 5, 1899.

#### WHAT ARE CRITICS FOR?

(To the Editor of THE DIAL.)

A short time ago it fell to the lot of the literary editor of one of Chicago's most popular dailies to review "Aylwin." He had evidently not been informed as to the aristocratic parentage of the book, for he seized upon it as the work of a green and friendless writer, only fitted to be a target for humorous sharp-shooting. Accordingly his Procrustean column was filled with fragments of gipsy incantations, Welsh dialect, and mystical jargon, punctuated with *sic's* and *(!)'s*, and supplemented with a witty commentary reflecting on the sanity of a novelist who expected intelligent people to interest themselves in such a "farrago of nonsense," and to read Welsh names where the consonants were in such large majority. A few weeks later the same newspaper published another review of the same book, this time evidently inspired by the publishers, for it included all those details about Mr. Watts-Dunton which were published (usually in the same words) in other so-called critiques: all about his distinguished friends, the circumstances under which the book was written and published, an authentic key to the characters, some remarks on the esoteric popularity of George Borrow and the Welsh Gipsies, etc. The Pre-Raphaelitism, Neo-Platonism and Post-Zolaism were neatly dissected out and identified with the skill of a clinical surgeon, and one knew not which to admire the more: the author who had made these dry bones live, or the critic who discerned their origin and function.

We can leave the explanation of such incidents to those who know what goes on behind the curtain of anonymity. The managing editor is not to be severely blamed, since there was nothing to indicate that the two reviews pertained to the same subject except the title of

the book. But whether Deutero-Critic was the same individual as the first except for the change of heart, is not of importance. What does shock the reader is to find that the "literary column" of the average newspaper is its most carelessly written department, with the exception of the dramatic criticism, which is usually worse. The athletic editor, the fashion editor, the culinary editor, the dermatological editor, the horoscope editor, all seem to understand their business and show some independence of judgment; but the literary editor often shows neither independence nor judgment.

What is demanded by the reader of the critic is not infallibility but responsibility. We will overlook his mistakes if we only have his assurance that he is doing the best that he can. A critic in discussing Mr. Paul Laurence Dunbar's recent novel commented on the curious fact that all the characters were colored people; another critic called attention to the equally curious fact that Mr. Dunbar had introduced no characters of his own race, but had written a "white folks' story." Now both these critics were above the average, because they realized that there is a difference between black and white, and they resisted the prevalent tendency to call everything gray; and it is probable that one or the other of them was partly right.

It is to be expected that a critic will err, but we wish he would not boast of his errancy as Mr. Andrew Lang did a few months ago. His attention was called to the fact that a book he had condemned in a few careless words as unworthy of notice had proved a literary success, and in his gracefully facetious way he explains that a critic has so little time to give to reading that he cannot be expected to know whether a book is good or not, and that for his part he does not care whether his judgments are correct or false.

This confession disturbed me a good deal, for I had been relying on Mr. Lang's criticisms for many years. A book he condemned I always read; and if he attacked a book savagely I bought it at once, for I knew it must be worth owning. By following this rule I have acquired a select library of the world's best literature with not a trashy volume in it. But when he says he does not know and does not care whether the books he reviews are good or bad, my faith in his negative infallibility is rudely shaken. I may miss some important work through a neglected condemnation on his part.

A respectable lawyer who loses a case, the respectable doctor who kills a patient, is properly ashamed of it: would it be too much to expect of a respectable critic who has pronounced a false judgment or killed a good book that he should conceal his glee over the achievement? What is a critic for, anyway? Is he to be a publisher's echo, a writer of philosophical essays with a book for a text, a jester at the author's expense, a bric-a-brac collector of second-hand personalities? or is it his duty to read new books and tell us what they are? We would like to have the critics save us time and money by reading the twenty-five books published each day and giving us a trustworthy and impartial account of them, so we can tell whether we want to read them or not. We are not interested in the critic's likes and dislikes, except in so far as we can use them to foretell our own. If, after the critic has given us the necessary information, he wants to tell us about how Hall Caine plagiarized from the Bible, and Watts-Dunton Borrow-ed his Gipsies, we may be interested in that also.

E. E. SLOSSON.

Laramie, Wyo., Feb. 10, 1899.



### The New Books.

#### THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD.\*

Fifty years ago everybody that was interested in American politics and everybody that read newspapers had heard of the Underground Railroad. It was much talked of, but not by those who knew the most about it. It was as mysterious as the Iron Mask, or the Fehmgericht, or the Old Man of the Mountain in the middle ages. The phrase was purely metaphorical. There was no railroad, and it was not subterranean. There was no corporation; there were no directors, no president, no stockholders, no track, no cars, no engines, no timetable, no regular time or place of trains, no rates of fare, no tickets;—name everything that belongs to a railroad except passengers and conductors, and deny the existence of all that you have listed, and you will be in the right. And the so-called conductors were not like real railway conductors. The laws of most of the states were against this shadowy elusive thing, whatever it was: yet in every community where it was known or supposed to exist, some of the best men of the community, the most upright, men who feared God and wrought righteousness, were spoken of as deepest in its mysteries, most audacious in its management. Can we call the "U. G. R. R." (so the abbreviation ran) an institution? Slavery was called by one of its defenders "our peculiar institution"; surely here was the counter peculiar institution.

Slavery was well-organized, had vast wealth, had unlimited social support, had special provisions for its defense in the Constitution of the United States, had seats in Congress, controlled elections, made presidents, judges, and officers of every grade. But the unorganized counter-institution, without money, without law, without political place or power, like the invisible antagonist in the fairy stories who carries a magical sword, proved to be such an annoying assailant and such a powerful adversary that it must be reckoned one of the great causes of the final ruin of slavery.

The political importance of the escapes of fugitives and of the recovery of them is made

very prominent by the efforts of the South to recover slaves under the law of 1793 and to get a more stringent law. "Five bleeding wounds!" said the great orator of compromise and conciliation in 1850, describing the condition of his country, "five bleeding wounds!" counting them off on the diverging fingers of his outstretched hand. Benton cynically said that if Clay had had more fingers he would have found more wounds. But Benton might have spared his sneer, as he would have done had he foreseen. Now that the whole matter is half a century away, we can look with sympathy upon the efforts of Clay, Calhoun, and Webster to avoid the civil war which they believed to be imminent. There were indeed bleeding wounds. To Clay, one of the fatal five was the action of Northern people when they aided fugitives and fought the slave-hunters.

It is wonderful that he could have thought Mason's Fugitive-Slave Bill to be a healing balm for that gaping wound. The remedy was like the old surgery of wounds before the days of Ambrose Paré, when caustic potash was applied to every cut, "to draw out the peccant humors," the creation of which modern science finds due to the potash itself. If the law of 1793 was offensive to the North because of its tendency to provoke breaches of the peace when the slaveholder sought to recover his slave by simple "reprisal" (which Blackstone explains as one's taking his property wherever he finds it), and because it was a cloak for kidnapping free men, how could it be supposed that the North would peaceably bear an enactment which increased both these evils, and contained several special and new grievances and provocations? The more we have studied the peculiarities of this law and the results of its enforcement, and the subsequent career of James M. Mason, its author (the Confederate envoy taken from the *Trent*), the more it seems plain that it was not intended to make peace, but to lead to secession. It was a test measure: if the North will stand this, slavery is secure; if it will not, the South will know the next step must be secession. The gaping, bleeding wound was enlarged; but slavery, not the nation, died of the hemorrhage.

Clay's curative measures were passed one by one: they failed to go through together, as a real compromise. Nevertheless, they were called the compromises of 1850. The admission of California gave an actual majority in the Senate to the North, and shattered forever Calhoun's favorite scheme of an equal balance

\*THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM. By Wilbur H. Siebert, Associate Professor of European History in Ohio State University. With an Introduction by Albert Bushnell Hart, Professor of History in Harvard University. With illustrations. New York: The Macmillan Co.



there. Texas was paid not to make war upon the United States, and to yield her claims upon New Mexico. All things were indeed settled and compromised except Northern conscience and love of liberty, and Southern claims of property and defense of slavery. With the new law to help him, the Southern master or his agent made hunting-grounds of the Northern States. He became frequent and very obvious. Fugitives who had long rested secure in Northern villages and cities or worked on Northern farms fled in swift alarm to Canada. Their absence was eloquent. Throughout the South the rumor spread, and suggested flight to daring spirits. As masters talked, slaves learned that there were friends of liberty in the North as well as officers of oppression.

In the North every arrest excited greater attention, and brought the peculiar institution into the blaze of publicity. The Underground Railroad increased its business. The South and the North grew still more angry with each other as collisions were more frequent. Northern states passed "Personal Liberty Laws" and other measures within their constitutional rights to make recovery difficult. The Supreme Court of Wisconsin came into conflict with the United States and its Supreme Court. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was written, and sold by thousands and tens of thousands of copies. Douglas's Kansas and Nebraska Bill poured oil on the flames by renewing the political struggle and rending the lately victorious Democratic party.

The operators on the Underground grew bolder; for men now winked at or aided them who had before denounced them as disturbers of the peace and enemies of the public welfare. This is well illustrated in the Garner case, in Cincinnati, in 1856. Rutherford B. Hayes is the relator of the story as given by Professor Siebert. Margaret Garner had escaped into Ohio with four children, and was hidden near Cincinnati. When her master found them, she determined to save her little ones from slavery by the second of Patrick Henry's alternatives; she killed the best beloved of her little flock, but succeeded no further. Efforts to save her from returning to Kentucky all failed: even a process against her for murder and violation of the law of Ohio was of no avail: the property right of the master overrode the criminal justice of Ohio. Mr. Hayes was living on a street full of pro-slavery people; but this tragedy converted them all; one of the leaders among them called on Mr. Hayes at his house

and declared with great fervor, "Mr. Hayes, hereafter I am with you. From this time forward I will not only be a Black Republican, but I will be a *damned abolitionist!*" Such conversions abounded. The execution of the law killed it. Moderate men in the North, — Abraham Lincoln, for example, — said the slaveholders were entitled to a law for the recovery of their property; but it must now be doubted whether even the allowance of a jury trial on the question of identity would have calmed the aroused and indignant Northern people.

The great contests of the giants in Congress, and the occasional capture of a fugitive like Anthony Burns, or Sims, or Jerry of Syracuse, were matters of history open to all men; but the underlying cause of much of the commotion was as secret as a fire in a peat-bog. It avoided the publicity that makes history. Now and then some daring or skilful escape would be told in the Northern newspapers; but Frederick Douglass complained that all such narrations made later escapes more difficult by making masters and hunters aware of the tricks and turns and disguises and resting-places of the fugitives and their friends. He would not tell how he escaped in 1838. Henry Box Brown was put into a box three feet long, two feet wide, and two feet eight inches deep, and so sent by Adams Express from Richmond, Va., to Philadelphia. The early and triumphant publication of the story put an end to such escapes, and helped bring the man who had boxed Brown, and who had aided fugitives for twenty years, to the penitentiary. It was the policy of the shrewdest station agents and conductors to know as little as possible of the work of others.

Hence, it happened that when slavery came to an end and there was no reason for further concealment, no one could write a history of the Underground Railroad. Occasionally some actor in this drama behind the scenes would relate and publish his reminiscences. There are a few interesting books of this sort, — as the Life of Levi Coffin, or Still's account of things noted at Philadelphia, or Dr. R. C. Smedley's memoranda of Chester County. The men who had been most active were now for the most part old and grayheaded men, passing rapidly away. Men born sixty years ago had not become adult when the drama closed. The stories they can now tell are for the most part traditions from their elders. Seeing that this knowledge must soon be lost, Professor Siebert

has devoted much time and labor to the collection and arrangement of historical matter relating to the Underground Railroad, which is presented in the volume under review.

Professor Siebert's book is both the most extensive and the most comprehensive work of all hitherto issued upon this subject. He discusses his sources of information; the origin, growth, methods, and managers of the Underground; abductions from the South; fugitives in the North and in Canada; prosecutions under the Acts of 1793 and 1850; the effects of the Underground Railroad in politics and otherwise, in discussion of which he affirms that "the U. G. R. R. was one of the greatest forces which brought on the Civil War and thus destroyed slavery." He gives thirty-seven pages to "the map of the U. G. R. R. system," giving one general and five local maps. He gives in an appendix the Acts of 1793 and of 1850, and the fugitive clauses in the Constitution, in the Ordinance of 1787, and in the Missouri Compromise; and adds another appendix giving eighty-one important fugitive-slave cases with reference to the sources of information concerning each. To these he might well have added from Wheeler's "Law of Slavery" the early case of *Avis* in Massachusetts, often cited as a leading case; and the cases of *Phoebe vs. Jay*, *Borders vs. the People*, and *Willard vs. the People* in Illinois.

Another valuable appendix is an extensive bibliography. This ends with "Imaginative Works," listing only four, of which one is "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and another is Whittier's *Poems*. Why not also Longfellow's "Poems on Slavery," which preceded Whittier's first book that had an anti-slavery poem? Why not Lowell? And for novels, there should be named Trowbridge's "Neighbor Jackwood," Epes Sargeant's "Peculiar," William L. G. Smith's pro-slavery "Uncle Tom's Cabin as it is," of which 15,000 copies were sold in fifteen days, and Mrs. Stowe's "Dred," called later "Nina Gordon": to these we could add many more of less importance.

Another appendix of thirty-seven pages is called a "Directory of the Names of Underground-Railroad Operators." The present reviewer is sorry to be obliged to say that unless the rest of it is more accurate than certain parts that come within his own personal knowledge, it is so unreliable as to be practically useless. By defect, it omits names that should be there; but this fault is naturally incident to the difficulty of obtaining information at the present

time, almost forty years after the secret coalition ceased operation.

For example, in Sangamon County, Illinois, the station at Farmington, near the present Farmingdale, had operators Rev. Bilious Pond, Deacon Lyman, and Messrs. Estabrook and Low; and the knowing ones sent fugitives thither rather than to pro-slavery Springfield, though the capital was honored by the residence of Luther Ransom, a fearless and active Garrisonian. These names are not given; but three names are given for Sangamon, of so little fame that only surnames represent two of them. So in Morgan, Henry Irving and W. C. Carter, the principal "coachmen" from Jacksonville, are unnamed, as well as Julius A. Willard, whose name is found in our Supreme Court Reports. In the same volume with Willard's case appeared the case and name of Andrew Borders of Randolph, not listed. Professor Siebert may be excused for not getting these names; but their absence may show that such a list or "directory" cannot be made.

Again, men are listed who never were Underground Railroad operators, but were known only as anti-slavery men, and perhaps lukewarm as such. The reviewer knew Morgan County pretty well, and can say that the three names given for that county should have no place there. Still worse, in the list for Jersey County are three names that belong to Morgan; and one of those had no active connection with the movement. Of the remaining four names in Jersey, who would recognize in the Frenchy name "Garesche" the sturdy Yankee miller, Joseph Gerrish? In Henry County, William T. Allan (not Allen) appears also as William S. Allen, non-existent. McLean is honored with the single name of Deacon Moss; but this is the same man as the "Dea. Mark Morse" of Woodford, "Mt. Hope Station," on the road in 1840. Charles Lippincott never lived in Randolph, but in Madison and Bond. There is a very suspicious identity of three names in the Bond County list of Illinois and the Bond County list of Indiana.

Leaving Illinois, where more defects could be shown, let us go to Pennsylvania. Here, from the list for Chester County, J. Williams Thorne should be transferred to Lancaster, where he is erroneously given as I. William Thorne. Enoch Walker should be given to Montgomery; Philip and Benjamin Price should be taken from Delaware to Chester, where one of them is listed as Pierce. Other changes should be made in that region; and Mahlon Brosius

should be added to Chester. Forty-two per cent of the "Directory" is given to Ohio, which is probably nearer to accuracy. But the "Directory" and the maps are tentative, partial, and defective: a true map cannot be made.

Let not this criticism of the weak point of the book (weak because its author attempted what no man can now do) obscure or hide from our readers the fact that Professor Siebert's work is the great work on its subject, the book to which writers on American history must hereafter look as the best summary of information. It is an honest and laborious attempt to gather the facts of the time; and they are skilfully classified and arranged. There is no superfluous rhetoric. It must have cost the writer an effort to omit the romance of the Underground Railroad, the marvellous stories of escapes and perils which would have made the volume more readable, but would have made it less a sober and self-contained history. For those incidents one must go to Still and Smedley and Coffin and the like. The present reviewer, who heard Garrison lecture sixty-eight years ago to a scanty audience, and who was an interested observer and an active sharer in the anti-slavery contest to its close, is glad to see a presentation of one of the greatest agencies of the conflict so suitable to its importance and so worthy of praise.

The last paragraph of the text speaks of "the cancellation of the slave clause in the Constitution by the amendment of that instrument." This is a not uncommon error. But that clause is not cancelled. If a duly-bound apprentice or a person who has made a contract to labor for a specified time should run away from Ohio into Indiana, under this still-valid clause the injured party could reclaim the fugitive, whom no law of Indiana could release from his obligation. This clause, used for the benefit of the slaveholder, is valid without slavery, and is a condensed form of a similar provision in the instrument of union of the New England colonies in 1643, which was meant for indentured servants; though after their treaty of 1650 with New York, it was extended to that Dutch colony, and it is reported that under it one slave was reclaimed.

The book is well printed, and is, except in a few proper names, free from typographical errors: it has thirty-eight pages of index. Having been so interested in the work as to read every page of its text, the reviewer congratulates Professor Siebert upon the completion of his monumental labor. SAMUEL WILLARD.

#### SOME RECENT BOOKS ON EDUCATION.\*

General Francis A. Walker was known to the country in many ways; he was a man of varied talents and diversified activities. Perhaps it would not be an easy matter to rate his ability and the value of his work, relatively, in the several spheres of action in which he figured. He was a soldier of the Union and the historian of important phases of the Civil War; he was superintendent of the National Censuses of 1870 and 1880; he was a student of economics, and the writer of valuable economical books; and he was a practical educator. All this was well known to the public; but we assume that the extent and value of his contributions to educational discussion were not equally well known. We have now before us the evidence of his work in this department of activity, in the solid and beautiful volume entitled "Discussions in Education," which is made up of his occasional addresses and papers. It is a fitting memorial to its author, and a fresh evidence of the country's loss in his untimely death.

General Walker was a man of varied educational experience, serving at different times as a college tutor, a college professor, and President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He also served on the Boston School Board, and probably in other similar administrative offices. The breadth of his experience, as well as the natural range of his mind, are reflected in these "Discussions." The subjects dealt with are all live and practical subjects; the author was apparently too busy to deal with education under its historical or philosophical aspects. The contents are grouped by the editor under

\* *DISCUSSIONS IN EDUCATION.* By Francis A. Walker, Ph.D., LL.D., late President of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Edited by James Phinney Munroe. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

*UNIVERSITY PROBLEMS IN THE UNITED STATES.* By Daniel Coit Gilman, LL.D., President of Johns Hopkins University. New York: The Century Co.

*GERMAN HIGHER SCHOOLS. The History, Organization, and Methods of Secondary Education in Germany.* By James E. Russell, Ph.D., Dean of Teachers' College, Columbia University. New York: Longmans, Green, & Co.

*A HISTORY OF RUGBY SCHOOL.* By W. H. D. Rouse, M.A., Sometime Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

*THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.* By Graham Balfour, M.A. New York: Oxford University Press.

*WORK AND PLAY IN GIRLS' SCHOOLS.* By Three Head Mistresses: Dorothea Beale, Lucy H. M. Soulsby, Jane Frances Dove. New York: Longmans, Green, & Co.

*INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF HISTORY.* By Ch. V. Langlois and Ch. Seignobos of the Sorbonne. Translated by G. G. Berry, with a Preface by F. York Powell. New York: Henry Holt & Co.



four heads: "Technological Education," "Manual Education," "The Teaching of Arithmetic," and "College Problems." But General Walker never deals with his subject in a narrow or so-called "practical" way; right or wrong, he always has his eye fixed on some valuable educational end. Nor does he tumble into the pitfall that always yawns for the specialist. For example, he writes:

"My own opinion is that engineering education is primarily and principally an educational and not an engineering problem; and that the judgment of a strong and experienced teacher who has studied this problem is more likely to be right than that of any engineer without experience as a teacher, however eminent he may be in his profession."

Again, he does not find the value of industrial education in special utilities, but writes:

"I heartily believe that the introduction of the mechanic arts, and of sewing and cooking, into the public schools, will do much, very much, not only to increase the interest of the pupils in their work, as has been already indicated, but to win for the schools a far larger degree of interest on the part of parents and a far heartier support of the system on the part of the general community."

And again, speaking of manual training:

"I care comparatively little for its influence upon eye or hand. Its chief work in my view is educational; and in that educational work I place foremost its power of rectifying the mind itself, of straightening the crooked limb, — so to speak, — of strengthening the weak joint, of healing the lesion, which, if not cured, will proceed to deep and irreparable injury."

President Gilman's "University Problems," like General Walker's "Discussions in Education," consists of the more weighty utterances of its author, during the last twenty-five years or more, on educational subjects. Most of these utterances originally took the form of public addresses; and such form they still retain. The book is a valuable contribution to educational discussion. Here the reader will find the resources and ideals, the methods and field, of Johns Hopkins University, with something of its history, clearly set forth by its President. President Gilman throws out one original suggestion relative to a National university that may yet prove to be highly important. It is, that the Smithsonian Institution shall "organize a plan by which the literary and scientific institutions of Washington may be associated and correlated so far, and so far only, as relates to the instruction and assistance, under proper guidance, of qualified students." There will be no difficulty, he assures us, about the funds if this were done. As we understand him, this is the scheme that Dr. Gilman has in mind in this passage:

"If the university in Washington could be so ordered that all the scientific resources of the nation were available for study, under the guidance of competent persons, without reference to honors, and without formal and prolonged curricula, very many well-qualified scholars — some who have graduated, and some who have never been in college; men and women; foreigners and Americans; some in early and some in later life — would there be gathered, and would be aided, taught, and inspired by the opportunities and influences thrown open to them, in an amplitude worthy of the National Capital."

Professor Russell is fully justified in assuming, as he does in his preface to "German Higher Schools," that there was room in our pedagogical literature for a new book on the subject. As he tells us, German elementary schools and German universities have become familiar to American educators, but the secondary schools, which could be studied by us with still greater advantage, are much less known. Not only has he discovered the want, but he has gone far toward meeting it: still, no one book could meet it fully. One hundred and seven pages of his handsome volume are given to an historical account of German education and schools, from the days of Columban and Boniface to the present time, and the remainder to an exposition of the existing system of secondary education. The work is not closely confined, however, to secondary schools, and, if it were to be a good one, could not be; it must present the subject in its relations to other parts of the educational system. The author shows wide reading on his subject and skilful use of the note-book. He sprinkles quotation over his pages most plentifully, but he so weaves them into his narrative or exposition as not seriously to impair the unity of his composition. But, what is more to the purpose, he shows, when dealing with the secondary schools as they now exist, a large first-hand knowledge, obtained by personal visitation of schools and conference with teachers and educational authorities. There is no work in the English language known to us that contains so much and so valuable information about the secondary schools of Germany. Nor is the book a book of facts merely; the author has an eye also for ideas and forces, and conducts his historical narration with constant reference to these factors.

We do not know how it may be with Rugbeians or other British readers, but it is pretty safe to say that such Americans as read Mr. Rouse's "History of Rugby School" will find the centre of interest in the external rather than the internal features, as he portrays them,



of that famous school. While these readers have a considerable knowledge of the interior work and life of a great English public school, they generally know little of its exterior history. We cannot say that, under this aspect, Rugby is a typical school; undoubtedly, these institutions present many points of difference, but, after all, the great public schools, as well as the large class to which they belong—that is, the endowed schools—must have much external history in common. Mr. Rouse has, in general, presented this side of his subject with commendable fulness.

When Lawrence Sheriffe, member of the Worshipful Company of Grocers, and grocer to Queen Elizabeth, died in 1567, he left behind him a will and accompanying documents, in which Rugby School had its origin. He was a Rugbeian by birth, and, having prospered in business, wished to leave to his native town a legacy that would be productive of lasting good. So he left to George Harrison and Barnard Field, trustees, three pieces of property: A mansion house that he had built at Rugby, together with the land round about it, "being altogether one rood thirty poles or thereabouts"; the parsonage of Brownsover, near Rugby, "with one yard of glebe, more or less, and the tithes"; and one-third of "the field hard by Holborn, some half mile outside of London, commonly called Conduit Close or Conduit Mead,"—these pieces of property being devoted to the founding of an almshouse and a public school. The potency of Rugby lay in the piece of meadow land. This was at the time of comparatively little value, but it was by and by swallowed up by the great metropolis and so became a source of great and increasing wealth to the double foundation. Although Lawrence Sheriffe added a codicil to his will, and then fortified both documents with an "intente," he still left the business in great confusion. As we have seen, the foundation was double, and it was a long time before the school and the almshouse could be fully separated; the founder stated his intentions and wishes in a vague and general manner, not even providing for the succession of the trusteeship; while some of his relatives who had some slight claims upon his estate did all that they could do to destroy the trust altogether. What with an imperfect devise, indifferent or incompetent trustees, suits and commissions in equity, acts of Parliament, and greedy heirs, it was not a little remarkable that the foundation ever became a great school, or even survived at all.

This point we had in mind when we spoke above of the external history of Rugby. Of the many hundreds of school endowments made in England in the sixteenth century, some, and probably many, must have perished utterly, or have been wholly diverted from their purpose, by causes similar to those that came so near to wrecking Rugby.

Still, the view that we get of the interior of the school is by no means without interest. Dealing with the new spirit introduced by Dr. Arnold, the author sets forth his own view, as well as Arnold's, of one important feature of school discipline:

"Arnold did not in the least suffer from that false sentimentality common in our own generation, which condemns all corporeal punishment as degrading. There can be no degradation when none is felt, and ordinary boys, as every practical teacher will admit, feel none in corporeal punishment. They hail it, rather, as far preferable to long and monotonous impositions; if judiciously and calmly administered, it never leaves a grudge behind, as impositions often do."

The reader of this passage would naturally expect to find Mr. Rouse defending fags and fagging, and this he does. He tells us that:

"It raises a smile to read what some eminent educationalists have written of the fagging system, as though it were a thing essentially bad, and only to be tolerated because it cannot be abolished. If it be essentially bad, that the young should serve before they can rule, then the whole system of government in all organized countries, and in the army and navy, and in commerce, is essentially bad. Experience shows that the fagging system, if properly limited, is a good and useful institution, and an excellent training in habits of smartness and obedience."

There may be some shadow of truth in this view of the subject, but the fagging system will disappear, and future masters of Rugby, successors of Mr. Rouse, will wonder that he ever defended it.

Mr. Graham Balfour has attempted to describe the three grades of education in the four countries, England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. He defines his purpose as not to write a history of education, but to give "an account of the framework of which education is the life and spirit." "I have had," he says, "to deal only with the dry bones, for the first and most pressing need was a picture of the existing skeleton." Skeletons, even if grinning and ghastly, are of the first importance to all systems, and of great interest to all students of anatomy. This book might be described, therefore, as a treatise on the educational anatomy of the four countries just named. We do not see how the author could have done his work better than he has done it. He has ranged

over the whole field for facts, and has presented them in a manner that shows decided power of analysis and combination. It is hard to see how more information could have been put in the same compass, or how what is here found could have been presented in clearer or more concise language. The book is one that all students of education in Great Britain and Ireland will find most useful, if not indispensable. Still, we have some fear that readers who have not some considerable previous knowledge of the subject will find it too solid and compact for their purpose. But compendiums are not written, or should not be written, for novices.

Mr. Balfour's book illustrates in a striking way the extraordinary variety of schools existing in the four countries named, and especially in England and Wales, which, for the purposes of elementary teaching, are subject to the same laws. Even the reader who is already familiar with the field — that is, if he lives on this side of the ocean — will be impressed again by the utter absence of controlling ideas and principles, and the absolute predominance of empiricism and precedent, in British education. He will also be impressed again by the progress of elementary instruction in recent years. Government grants began with £20,000 in 1833; they amounted to £800,000 in 1860, and reached £9,000,000 in 1897. Nor were the rates, or local taxes as we should call them, which amounted to nearly £5,000,000, counted in the sum given for the last year. Mr. Balfour counts the educational fund from public grants, endowments, and other sources, for Great Britain and Ireland, at fully £20,000,000 annually; and estimates that this sum will have to be considerably increased before existing wants are met.

The title-page of "Work and Play in Girls' Schools" suggests that the book is wholly the work of the three head-mistresses named, all of whom have at some time been members of the teaching staff of the Cheltenham Ladies' College. But such is not the fact: many other writers have contributed to the volume. Nor are Miss Soulsby and Miss Dove relatively prominent; the one writes the section on the "Moral Side of Education" and the other that on the "Cultivation of the Body." The veteran Miss Beale is much the most abundant contributor to the book. The aim of the authors is to cover the whole field of girls' education. Some of the pedagogy that it contains is rather antiquated, and some of the exercises recom-

mended are useless; but on the whole it is a book of solid value and breathes a wholesome spirit. It may be observed that Miss Beale keeps her good old English faith in examinations unshaken. She argues with old-time confidence, and with perfect truth that, provided examinations are rightly conducted, they are useful as a test of what we really know; that preparation for them enables us to find out what are our permanent possessions; that competitive examinations compel us to set these possessions in order and estimate their relative importance; that examinations tend to produce presence of mind and mental self-control; that they suppress wordiness and abolish a florid style, and tend to make us feel the supreme importance of clearness and accuracy. All the current arguments against examinations that are now so popular are based on their abuses.

It is generally agreed among scholars that no better university work in history is now anywhere done than in Paris. This fact will give importance to the "Introduction to the Study of History," quite apart from its intrinsic merits. MM. Langlois and Seignobos are lecturers on history at the Sorbonne, and they give us in this book, as we understand the matter, the view of history and the general method of studying it that are now in favor at this celebrated seat of learning. They intend to go to the bottom of things, as this paragraph from their preface will show:

"We propose to examine the conditions and the methods, to indicate the character and the limits, of historical knowledge. How do we ascertain, in respect of the past, what part of it is possible, what part of it is important, to know? What is a document? How are documents to be treated with a view to historical work? What are historical facts? How are they to be grouped to make history? Whoever occupies himself with history performs, more or less unconsciously, complicated operations of criticism and construction, of analysis and synthesis. But beginners, and the majority of those who have never reflected on the principles of historical methodology, make use, in the performance of these operations, of instinctive methods which, not being, in general, rational methods, do not usually lead to scientific truth. It is, therefore, useful to make known and logically justify the theory of the truly rational methods — a theory which is now settled in some parts, though still incomplete in points of capital importance."

The keynote of the work is that history is a science. Mr. York Powell, in introducing it to English readers, strikes this note in this manner:

"It is not an historian's question, for instance, whether Napoleon was right or wrong in his conduct at Jaffa, or Nelson in his behavior at Naples; that is a matter for the student of ethic or the religious dogmatist to decide. All that the historian has to do is to get what conclusion

he can get out of the conflict of evidence, and to decide whether Napoleon or Nelson actually did that of which their enemies accuse them, or, if he cannot arrive at fact, to state probability, and the reasons that incline him to lean to the affirmative or to the negative."

The meaning of this is that the historian is to look upon the actions of men just as the geologist looks upon the eruptions of a volcano and the spouting of a hot spring. "The historian very properly furnishes the ethical student with material," Mr. Powell tells us further, "though it is not right to reckon the ethical student's judgment upon the historian's facts as history in any sense." This ideal, we venture to say, is both false and impossible. The kind of man that Napoleon or Nelson was, is an historical question; and neither one is to be studied as though he were an elemental non-moral force. That, no doubt, was Napoleon's own view of the matter. The first duty of the historian, and one hitherto much neglected, is to get at the facts; but, this done, he is to seek out their causes and interpretation. Moreover, the character of the man himself is a factor in this secondary process. Our authors have produced a strong book, and one that we gladly recommend to students and teachers of history; but we protest that history is not one of the natural sciences.

B. A. HINSDALE.

#### CURRENT THEATRICAL CRITICISM.\*

It is not the custom of our dramatic critics to collect and publish their works. You may go into any well-appointed bookstore and ask for Mr. Alan Dale's "Life and the Stage," or Mr. Franklin Fyles's "Sunlight and Footlights," but you will not get them, for they do not exist. So many libraries consider it respectable to bind the "New York Tribune" that Mr. William Winter's views will be always accessible; and now that Mr. Norman Hapgood has taken to the magazines, he is safe for immortality. But as a rule the press comments, even on our "metropolitan" stage, are breathed forth but once into the great expanse of newspaper readers, and after a day or so are as if they had never been. In other countries, men are more or less in the habit of publishing their theatrical criticism; and this is a good thing, on the whole, for it dignifies the tone of criticism and of the stage as well. So it is of some

\* *ESSAYS IN DRAMATIC CRITICISM. With Impressions of Some Modern Plays.* By L. Dupont Syle. New York: William K. Jenkins.

*DRYDEN'S ESSAYS ON THE DRAMA.* Edited, with Notes, by W. Strunk, Jr. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

interest that Mr. Dupont Syle should have broken the ice in the matter.\* His "Essays in Dramatic Criticism" contain two different kinds of work, — first, a number of essays on general dramatic subjects; and second, several critical notices of current plays.

It is curious, if nothing more, that the stage which forms the object of Mr. Syle's criticism should be that of San Francisco. That will explain the fact that of the fifteen plays that he speaks of, not a single one can really be said to be of any permanent interest. The best known of them are "Trilby," "Shore Acres," and "The Geisha"; these, people have heard of and still remember; the others were either never known at all or are now forgotten. Many, many people live in places (one-night stands) where the "Opera House" offers very few real attractions; but few who have any dramatic possibilities at all have gazed on a list of plays of less interest to anybody except the inexperienced and the confirmed theatre-goer. Yet in this very fact (and I think that Mr. Syle appreciates it perfectly) lies the chief interest of this book. Mr. Syle is a pretty well equipped dramatic critic; he has seen good acting here and abroad, he is a professor of literature and therefore familiar with the great dramatists, he has the disposition and reading of a critic. Now, if a competent critic happen to live in San Francisco (or near it) what is he to do? Keep quiet? Certainly not: let him criticize anything in sight. A good critic should be something like a good portrait-painter: he should work on the material at hand, and not always demand the brightest and best. Probably the men that Rembrandt and Franz Hals painted would have seemed commonplace enough to us, at least some of them. A good critic will have something to say about almost anything.

These criticisms, then, were very interesting to me, although I do not think that I should have cared much about the plays. I do not know that they would be interesting to everybody, for doubtless a great part of my interest might be called (with an unintentional double meaning) professional. Perhaps the general run of people would not care to read about plays that they have never seen and never wish to see and for which they care absolutely nothing. It may be so; and yet Mr. Syle has written well concerning them, written on a high plane, but

\* It seems hardly possible, in these days of republication, that no one should have done so before, so I am prepared to be wrong in this matter. But it is certainly an uncommon practice.



easily and quite without pedantry or conventionalism.

I suppose it may be urged against these critiques that they are "too literary." I think I have heard this expression used of dramatic criticism, although I am not at all sure that I know just what it means. Mr. Syle rather lays himself open to this allegation, for the first essays in the book (*Essays as distinguished from Impressions*) are undoubtedly "literary" in character. The longest is an indication of the influence of Molière on Congreve and Sheridan, good in itself, and perhaps rather better if it should lead anyone to carry on the inquiry and ask whether we can trace any influence of Molière and Congreve and Sheridan upon Mr. Pinero and Mr. Henry Arthur Jones. The four other essays are much shorter; pleasant reading, but without much novelty of idea. The last may perhaps be excepted; Mr. Syle, in comparing our stage with the Elizabethan drama, shows how several of the popular elements of the latter, poetry, eloquence, history, have of late found better means of expression than the drama. So far he is quite right; probably right also when he says that the chief distinctive element of the art of the present playwright is the construction of situation, and explains thus the popularity of the farce, wherein situation is the chief dependence. If this be so, however, I hardly follow Mr. Syle in thinking that with a decrease in our present commercialism, the drama will again take to itself "the poetical and ethical elements which we see flourishing in the works of the great playwrights." It may well be that in that millennium the drama will find that possession is nine points of the law.

But to return to the criticism of contemporary plays. Whether the general reader be interested in such essays or not, it would be rather for the better, so far as the stage is concerned, if he were interested and if there were more such books as this. We have, nowadays, so many books anyway that a few more could at least do no harm. And books like this are in the way of doing good in so far as they tend to raise the tone of our theatrical criticism, both on the part of the critics and of play-goers as well. There is no doubt that, critics or not, people will keep on going to the theatre, and generally to see what they like. But there can be no doubt either that they will also continue to talk about the plays they have seen and therein find a great part of their pleasure. You buy a ticket and see a play; but that is only

the beginning of your good time. After the play there is always a fresh interchange of opinion or repartee at the theatre supper or in the street-car going home. Then for a week or so there is the constant, "Have you seen this or that?" "Well, my dear, what did you think of it?" "Were n't the dresses," etc., a sort of conversation which, independently of the weight of opinion expressed, is generally pleasant to the conversers. And then afterward, for a longer or shorter time, there is the general impression left by a play and its acting, rarely taking definite form but usually present, the impression which does most (when anything at all is done) to influence taste and character. Everybody knows this, and yet nobody to speak of thinks much of it. With a book, a picture, a piece of music, we all think opinion is important enough to be worth our attention. Ah, but these are opinions on the great books, the great pictures, the great music, not of mere contemporary appearances. True enough; but of the great plays as acted plays, we can never have anything but contemporary criticism. Hence, if we are going to have dramatic criticism at all, it must be from day to day, and just as it is worth while to have criticism of literature, painting, music, so it is worth while to have some criticism of the drama. Not that people may thus get the right opinions ready made and so know what to think, but that they may have a chance to form for themselves more definite ideas and standards than they can easily do now, when popular theatrical criticism is largely impromptu and a matter of accident. Let anyone think whether novel-reading would be as much fun as it is now had we never read any literary criticism; whether paintings would be so absorbing to us if we had never read a word about the art of the great painters. And let anyone think, too, whether "good music" would not be more truly attractive to many if people ever read any musical criticism. Criticism of anything arouses interest; it makes us notice what had before escaped notice; it gives a chance for opinion either by agreement or disagreement; it encourages thought. So I saw Mr. Syle's book with pleasure, just as I see with pleasure the gradually increasing custom of publishing plays in real books. Both tend toward the creation of a more active, a sounder state of public opinion than we have now; and this is the first thing necessary to having better plays and better acting. When people want the best, they will generally find a way to get it.

A farther view of this book is suggested by

another, published a little while ago, namely, Dryden's "Essays on the Drama," edited by W. Strunk, Jr. This is an excellent little book. It contains the essay "Of Dramatic Poesy," the "Defence" of the Essay, and the essay "Of Heroic Plays," with very good apparatus. Mr. Strunk has done his work thoroughly; he gives (besides the usual biographical facts and notes on style and allusions) a history of the discussion of which these essays were a part, an account of Dryden's sources and authorities, an index of plays cited, and, in his notes, a pretty constant comparison of Dryden's opinions with the classics of criticism of his time. The book gives a good opportunity for an introduction to Dryden's dramatic criticism.

In the presence of a fairly definite body of dramatic criticism as you will find in Dryden, one inclines to look to Mr. Syle to see what are the principles on which his remarks rest. It is true that Dryden's criticism was the criticism of a man who was more interested in writing plays than in seeing them acted. It is true also that he spent most of his energy upon the development of the action and on the question of rhyme; and further, it will be allowed that Dryden was in his criticism too much bound to precedent for the best results. Still, it is of interest to have bases of criticism, unless you mean to have absolutely impressionistic criticism.

Mr. Syle does not give us impressionistic criticism: he gives what he calls "impressions," but they are really more like opinions, judgments. Now, without differing especially with many of these opinions, I should much like to know the guiding principles. For instance, Mr. Syle says, "Constructively the play is well made" (p. 94), although it afterwards appears that the first and fourth acts are the strong acts, while in the second and third acts "there is nothing that one could not foresee after listening to the opening speeches." Elsewhere he says, "It is a thousand pities that the author who could conceive such a character had not imagination enough to set it forth in truly poetic form" (p. 104), whereas another play of apparently the same kind is at fault because its dialogue has not "a shred of wit, humor, or anything but a surface observation of life" (p. 94). I do not mean to be captious or hypercritical in calling attention to these remarks, but I find it hard to see from them just what kind of construction, what kind of dialogue, Mr. Syle thinks good. If I did see, if I got at the fundamentals, I might improve

my own ideas. I do not myself think that construction is very good which permits us to foresee the end of an act from the beginning. I have not, as a rule, thought that we could ask for poetic charm in the presentation of the characters in a melodrama, nor much wit or humor in its dialogue. But if I have been wrong, it would surely be interesting to me to have some definite bases on which I could carry out a re-accommodation.

But perhaps everyone (else) knows all about such things already.

EDWARD E. HALE, JR.

#### AN IDEALIST'S IDEAS OF EVIL.\*

Professor Royce's latest book is a series of essays, more or less related to each other, and all bearing upon the general subject of Good and Evil. As might have been expected from the author's previous works, his point of view is that of the ethical idealist. This does not mean that Professor Royce is an idle dreamer, vaguely explaining away the essential differences between right and wrong. On the contrary, he looks facts squarely in the face and holds closely to the realities of everyday human life. He is an ethical idealist in that he interprets the universe as a realm whose significance lies in the ethical ideals which its processes realize.

Of all the problems of life, none are more baffling and intricate than the one which pertains to the existence of Evil. If God be good, why does He permit Evil? is a question that in one form or another has perplexed every thoughtful being. It is the question which Professor Royce attempts to answer. To put the matter in concrete form, he takes the case of Job as illustrating the experience of suffering humanity. To Job, this world is the work of a Being who ought to be intelligent and friendly to righteousness. Yet this God seems at times to show himself just the reverse. What is the explanation? After considering various familiar answers which have been given as solutions to the problem—that Evil is but transient discipline, that without Evil there could be no free-will, that we see only in part and a complete view would justify the belief that Evil is but partial good,—Professor Royce gives his own interpretation. He regards Evil

\*STUDIES OF GOOD AND EVIL. By Josiah Royce. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

as a real fact, and holds that its existence is not only consistent with the perfection of the world, but is necessary for the very existence of that perfection. As the hero could never be hero without controlling fear and pain; as the saint could never be saint without overcoming temptations to sin, so a knowledge of Good is possible only as one knows Evil and subordinates it to the Good. "If moral Evil were simply destroyed and wiped away from the external world, the knowledge of moral goodness would also be destroyed," is the language of Professor Royce. This reminds one of St. Thomas's famous argument for the existence of God. "It has been asked," says St. Thomas, "if there is a God, whence comes Evil? We should rather conclude thus: If there is Evil there is a God, for Evil would have no existence without order in the Good, the privation of which is Evil. But there would not be this order if God did not exist." Professor Royce holds that Job's problem is insoluble upon Job's presupposition, which is that God is an external creator and ruler, for in this case God is either cruel or helpless. Only when one regards God as the essence and fulness of all Being, absolutely one with humanity, suffering in its pain and triumphing in its victory, can there be any satisfactory solution of the problem. God is not the Infinite One beyond the finite imperfections, but the being whose unity determines the very constitution, the tension and relative disharmony of the finite world, and so the existence of Evil is not only consistent with the perfection of the universe, but is necessary for the very existence of that perfection.

To the student of Hegel, this theory of the justification of Evil is not new; nor does Professor Royce offer it as such. The merit of the essay is that the most difficult of problems is handled in a clear and masterly way, and the solution given is in accordance with the views of some of the ablest thinkers of the present time.

Professor Royce again states his fundamental theory in an essay on "Tennyson and Pessimism." He defends the position that "Locksley Hall Sixty Years After," although artistically inferior to the first "Locksley Hall," is ethically higher, and, contrary to general opinion, far more satisfactory. The complaint is made by the author that while Tennyson is one of the most devout of men, he gives as his ideal something that can be realized only through a more or less complete separation from the world of concrete life. The God in whom Tennyson believes

is a God that hides himself, or shows himself only on rare or romantic occasions to the devout. In no sense is he the God of the present. He is the God of the future. This is shown in the first "Locksley Hall." The young man is in the old romantic world on a quest for the ideal. He has nothing to do with the commonplace. His business is important, but vague and indescribable. Its prominent feature is that it takes him away from earthly relations to move forward, and neither he nor anyone else knows exactly where. This romantic idealism Professor Royce claims leads eventually to pessimism; and the pessimism of the second "Locksley Hall," so far as it is pessimistic, is the explicit statement of what is implied in the first. The thought is, Unless God is here, how do you know he is elsewhere? Unless the present has divine meaning, What proof is there of a far-off divine event? It is the recognition of this thought, and the absence of a vain romanticism, that gives a value to the later poem. For here Tennyson recognizes that if this is God's world, then these struggles, sins, strivings, and loves must be the expression of God's will: a truth which Browning repeats over and over again. Like various other forms of Evil, pessimism is not to be regarded as a final ill. On the contrary, "the best man is the one who can see the truth of pessimism, can absorb and transcend that truth, and can be nevertheless an optimist, not by virtue of his failure to recognize the evil of life, but by virtue of his readiness to take part in the struggle against this evil."

One of the most interesting, as well as most original, of these essays is "The Case of John Bunyan." The religious experiences of the great writer, as given in his remarkable Confessions, "Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners," are summarized by Professor Royce, and then interpreted, not in terms of the soul and its relation to God, but in the language of the latest school of empirical psychology. The story of Bunyan's religious life offers a rare object-lesson to the student of normal and abnormal mental processes. Bunyan was what psychologists would call a good visualizer. He was also an expert in the dialectics of the inner life, and a born genius as to the whole range of language functions, good and bad. Describing his early youth, he tells us that he frequently felt himself tempted to curse and swear, or speak some grievous thing against God. These and other insistent morbid impulses — such as wavering hopes, gloomy doubts and question-



ings, all of which Bunyan subsumes under the name Tempter — are more or less inhibited by other automatic mental processes, the result of a close study of the scriptures; for a text condemning or encouraging was sure to come to his mind whenever the oath came to his lips or the doubt to his consciousness. A chaos of motor processes was the result. Noting these and similar trains of morbid association, Professor Royce follows them through their various stages, as reported in the wonderfully clear and definite autobiography, marking the correspondence between periods of low physical condition and certain religious depressions. Finally the great change came, when, under a skilful self-imposed mental regimen, Bunyan had no return of the more deeply systemized disorders, although always a prey to elementary insistent temptations and depressions. The study of Bunyan's Case is of value as typical of morbid processes which have gone on in many brains less exalted than that of Bunyan without Bunyan's power of vivid description. While Professor Royce has chosen to state the case in psychological terms, he is careful to say that this does not in any wise impair its worth as an ethical study; for the problem to Bunyan was one of moral struggle, a struggle in which he came out victorious, recognizing in his victory the value of the Tempter as well as the Comforter.

The remaining essays in the volume bear upon other aspects of the relation of Good and Evil, and serve to illustrate the author's fundamental theory that Evil is essential to the realization of Good; that it is the living strife in the midst of which and by which God maintains Himself in the world.

CAROLINE K. SHERMAN.

THE annual volume for 1898 of the "Proceedings and Addresses" of the National Educational Association has just been published under the editorship of Mr. Irwin Shepard, secretary of the Association, and preserves for the members all of the papers and discussions of the meeting held last July in the national capital. It is a thick octavo of more than eleven hundred pages, and the contents relate to almost every conceivable phase of the educational problem. An elaborate index makes these contents readily available for reference. We should add that a considerable section of the volume is devoted to the Chattanooga meeting, held in February, of the Department of Superintendence. The papers here printed are, of course, greatly varied in their value, and we cannot help wishing that the general effect were not quite so scrappy — that the longer papers might be longer, and many of the shorter ones suppressed altogether.

#### RECENT FICTION.\*

"Ashes of Empire" is the third in order of publication of the series of romances in which Mr. Robert W. Chambers has sought to write a picturesque history of the *Année Terrible*. Its predecessors are "The Red Republic" and "Lorraine." It will be followed by a fourth, dealing with the operations of the Army of the Loire. We are compelled to say that "Ashes of Empire" is distinctly the poorest, as "Lorraine" is distinctly the best, of the three books thus far published. The author's invention seems to be flagging, and his sentimentalism to have become exaggerated. Still, the gift of romantic story-telling is his in so marked a degree that one may derive a good deal of pleasure from the new book, which begins with the news of Sedan and the escape of the Empress, tells the pitiful story of the siege, and ends with the entry of the victorious Prussians into the capital. Meanwhile, we are made to realize by ominous mutterings the gathering of the storm soon thereafter to break in the Commune, of which Mr. Chambers has already written in "The Red Republic." Upon a previous occasion, in speaking of these books, we have had to regret the author's propensity to disfigure them by the introduction of caricatures of some of the best of Frenchmen. But the prejudices hitherto made manifest in the treatment of Thiers and Gambetta and Hugo seem feeble in comparison with that now excited by Renan, who is caricatured in the present volume so offensively that one feels nothing but disgust for a novelist who could so per-

\* *ASHES OF EMPIRE*. A Romance. By Robert W. Chambers. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co.

*THE ROAD TO PARIS*. A Story of Adventure. By Robert Neilson Stephens. Boston: L. C. Page & Co.

*THE COUNT'S SNUFF-BOX*. By George R. R. Rivers. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co.

*A HERALD OF THE WEST*. By Joseph A. Altsheler. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

*MANDERS*. By Elwyn Barron. London: John Macqueen.

*THE ASSOCIATE HERMITS*. By Frank R. Stockton. New York: Harper & Brothers.

*EXILED FOR LÈSE MAJESTÉ*. By James T. Whittaker. Cincinnati: Curtis & Jennings.

*WITH BOUGHT SWORDS*. A Tale of a Spanish-American Republic. New York: M. F. Mansfield & Co.

*THE BATTLE OF THE STRONG*. A Romance of Two Kingdoms. By Gilbert Parker. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

*HER MEMORY*. By Maarten Maartens. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

*THE CHANGELING*. A Novel. By Sir Walter Besant. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co.

*THE ADVENTURERS*. A Tale of Treasure Trove. By H. B. Marriott Watson. New York: Harper & Brothers.

*THE RED AXE*. By S. R. Crockett. New York: Harper & Brothers.

*GRACE O'MALLEY, PRINCESS AND PIRATE*. By Robert Macbray. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co.

*ADVENTURES OF THE COMTE DE LA MUETTE DURING THE REIGN OF TERROR*. By Bernard Capes. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.

*THE SCOURGE OF GOD*. A Romance of Religious Persecution. By John Bloundelle-Burton. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

vert the truth. This blot so darkens "The Ashes of Empire" that its real merits are likely to be overlooked.

"The Road to Paris" is a long one, if we take the new romance by Mr. R. N. Stephens for a guide and cicerone. The story begins at Culloden with the flight into exile of the hero's father. The hero himself is born in the wilds of Pennsylvania, in time to grow up into a Revolutionary soldier, and take part in the fray on Bunker's Hill. He then, after escaping from imprisonment, joins the expedition to Quebec, and makes the long march through Maine to the St. Lawrence. In Quebec he appears as a spy, escapes detention, and gets carried away to England as a prisoner of war under the supposition that he is somebody else. Ethan Allen is one of his fellow-prisoners upon this unwilling voyage. Escaping from his English prison, he becomes in turn a strolling juggler, a gardener's assistant, and a fine gentleman of the town in Bath and London. Newgate, Vauxhall, and Hyde Park all make his acquaintance, and, after a surprising series of intrigues and adventures, he finds his way across the Channel in a smuggling boat, and seems at last to be really upon the road to Paris, the goal of his boyhood's ambition. But before he enters the city, he becomes engrossed in a sentimental episode with the precocious young daughter of Necker (who was afterwards to become the author of "Corinne"), and is also unwillingly mixed up in an organized plot for the assassination of that famous Minister. In consequence of all this, our hero's first entrance into Paris makes him a guest of the Bastille, where he languishes in captivity for a year or so. Escaping again (he always escapes), he makes his adventurous way into Germany, and becomes a personage at the court of Hesse-Cassel. Here he takes part in a conspiracy against the Landgraf, barely escapes with his life, and carries off his lady-love in triumph to Paris, which he really enters at last in the fashion to be desired. The lady in the case, it should be added, has figured in his life both in New England and in Quebec, so we know she is bound to appear at the end and make his story all that a romance should be. Here, indeed, is a tangled skein of adventurous experiences, and the reader hardly knows, when all is over, whether to admire the more the author's easy and animated narrative manner, or the astonishing ingenuity displayed by him in making so many historical scenes and situations take part in the shaping of the hero's destiny.

Mr. Elwyn Barron, who some years ago left America for an English sojourn of indefinite duration, is now favorably recalled to the memory of his old circle of readers by what may fairly be called one of the most charming novels of the season. "Manders" is a Europeanized production,—almost as much so as the later stories of Mr. Henry Harland, which it somehow suggests,—and it strikingly illustrates, when compared with Mr. Barron's earlier writing, the broadening influences of life in the great centres of European civilization. Manders

is the name of a little boy, and he is ostensibly the hero of the story, but in fact he interests us less than his widowed mother—a professional model in the Quarter—and her vacillating but not unsympathetic lover, an American art student of ample means. Mr. Barron's success with his heroine is akin to Du Maurier's success with a certain girl whom we need not name: it is the successful portrayal of a woman who remains pure at heart amid surroundings that at least are not encouraging to purity. There is also an American heroine of pronounced and attractive type, besides the necessary complement of minor characters. The author has shown much skill in realizing these figures for us, besides doing it in a style that is excellent on its own account. He has a form of expression that is crisp and effective, subtly humorous upon occasion, but always ready to rise to the demands of a serious situation. The book is not exactly a strong one, but it is exceptionally pleasing, and it rings true.

As every reader of Mr. Stockton's books is aware, the stories that they tell cannot possibly be retold in abstract. "The Associate Hermits" is no exception to this rule, and an outline of its plot would give no notion whatever of the quaint humor, the novelty of situation, and the general whimsicality, which make this book a worthy companion of its many predecessors. About the only idea that can be detached without losing its essential flavor is the one with which the story opens—the idea of a newly-wedded couple who, instead of starting on a wedding journey themselves, persuade the parents of the bride to do it for them. This is as Stocktonian a notion as can be; to tell what follows shall be his affair, not ours.

Two historical romances which stand rather above the usual level of merit have for their subject the War of 1812. Mr. George Rivers, the author of "The Count's Snuff-Box," has taken the episode of the Henry letters for a starting-point, and the "Count" of the title-page is the imposter who posed as one Edward de Crillon upon that critical occasion. Mr. Rivers supplements what is known historically of that imposter by embellishments of the usual romantic sort, and makes an agreeable story of the whole affair. The scene is laid partly on the shore of Buzzard's Bay and partly in Washington, the burning of the capital by a horde of British ruffians affording a thrilling climax to the work.

The burning of Washington also appears in "A Herald of the West," by Mr. Joseph Altsheler, but midway in this case, for the Battle of New Orleans provides the climax. Mr. Altsheler's book is more closely historical than the one before mentioned, and those who have read his two earlier romances of American history do not need to be told that he is a writer of real power. In these days, which are witnessing a recementation of the ties that should and must bind together the English-speaking peoples, we are apt to forget how real were the grievances that brought on the War of 1812. These the author recalls to us in plain terms, with perhaps just

a touch of the bitterness that should by this time have disappeared altogether, but certainly with no harboring of the old rancor. The story is well-knit, varied of interest, thrilling upon occasion, and distinctly to be praised.

"Exiled for L'Es Majesté" is a taking title for a book, and when a glance at the pages shows it to be a story of Russian despotism and imprisonment in Siberia, a certain pleasurable anticipation is aroused. But the expectation is doomed to disappointment upon further examination, for the story proves but a tenuous thread upon which the author hangs a heavy burden of miscellaneous information concerning all subjects under the sun (and others). Interminable conversations of a semi-didactic sort are the substance of the book, while the romantic interest is lost like a rivulet in the desert. We cannot help being amused at the audacity of the writer in making his characters discuss (in the time of Nicholas — that is, in the early fifties) such subjects as Darwinism and the marvellous growth of Chicago, and quote from FitzGerald's Omar and the later poems of Longfellow. No such trifling matter as an anachronism is going to stand in the way of this writer's fancy; if he wishes to point a moral, he is evidently not to be deterred by any consideration of what the mere facts will justify.

"With Bought Swords" is a Spanish-American romance of revolution and intrigue, in which the author has by no means made the most of his materials. The effect is too sketchy to be in any way impressive. Over and over again, situations that might have been worked up excitingly are merely hinted at, and one follows the story with some difficulty. We fear that this book must be characterized as a bit of amateurish effort undeserving of serious attention.

Those who expected the new novel by "Maarten Maartens" to be a work of such elaborate interest as "My Lady Nobody" or "God's Fool" will be disappointed. It is so long since the author last came before the public that such an expectation was reasonable, but instead of fulfilling it, he now presents us with what is little more than a sketch. The book is called "Her Memory," and is the study of a man's sorrow when bereft of a beloved wife, and left to face an existence made solitary save by the presence of the little girl who is left him. How the passionate soul of the man rebels, and how the first poignancy of grief gradually becomes tempered into endurance, how the lives of both father and child develop under the influence of the tender memory that remains to them, and how existence in the end comes once more to take on its wonted aspect; all these things are imparted to our sympathies rather than to our intellect by the writer's graceful art. Few novelists have so marked a temperament as this Anglicized Dutchman of genius, and the temperament is such as to suggest Thackeray in more than one way, although there is back of it no such wealth of intellectual resource as was possessed by the author of "Vanity Fair" and "Henry Emond."

"Her Memory" is a welcome visitor to our table, but we cannot help wishing that it were ampler in dimensions and richer in content.

"In any case this tale has no claim to be called a historical novel," says Mr. Gilbert Parker in a note appended to "The Battle of the Strong." We shall take the liberty of qualifying this assertion to a certain extent. Admitting the fact that the characters concerned are wholly the creations of the author, it must yet be said that a novel may be historical even if no actor on the stage of actual history treads its boards. The setting must be taken into account, the manners and customs depicted, the truthfulness to the larger historical facts of the period and the place concerned. In these particulars, the book is a historical novel in a high and fine sense, just as Victor Hugo's "Les Misérables" is a historical novel, and would remain one without its description of the battle of Waterloo. There are more reasons than one for the suggestion, in the present connection, of the great French masterpiece. It is made inevitable by the fact that Mr. Parker's book is a romance of Jersey, for no one may write of the Channel Islands without suggesting the writer who lived among them during nearly twenty years' voluntary exile. There are, furthermore, among Mr. Parker's pages not a few which in manner, in epic breadth of treatment, and in poetic envisagement of an impressive scene or situation, constantly recall to the mind this or that page of "Quatre-Vingt-Treize" and "Les Travailleurs de la Mer." Nor is the comparison an unworthy one, for Mr. Parker here approves himself to be of the great race of storytellers, and has produced a work that must be reckoned among the masterpieces of recent fiction. The scene is Jersey, for the most part, although an important section of the romance takes us to the Duchy of Bercey, and the time that of the Revolution. The island itself remains almost undisturbed during these stormy years, but echoes from Paris, and La Vendée, and the high seas where English and French are pitted against each other, reach the scene from time to time, and bring the action into relief against an impressive historical background. Still, its interest, which runs the entire gamut from the lightest comedy to the deepest tragedy, is essentially domestic, and concerns the lives of a few Jerseymen and Jerseywomen. Among these the heroine, Guida de Landresse, shines like a star in the purity of her womanhood, and about her are grouped three men who love her — one less than his ambition, another with a too dumb and dog-like devotion, a third, to whose life her gracious presence gives renewed nobility of purpose, and who wins her in the end, after she has sounded all the depths of grief, and felt to the full the chastening influence of suffering. The story is one in which strength and sweetness are so subtly commingled that each intensifies the other. Mr. Parker has made judicious use of a vast amount of material collected for his work. The history, the customs, the dialect, the folk-lore, and the institutions of the island are drawn upon most effectively.



and when the climax is reached, it is an ancient legal formula that provides the keynote to an intensely dramatic situation. When the wronged Guida appeals for justice to the Cour d'Héritage, it is with the old Norman cry: *Haro, haro! a l'aide, mon Prince, on me fait tort!* The effect, as contrived by Mr. Parker, is simply overwhelming. We might go on almost indefinitely in praising this book—which is an advance upon even "The Seats of the Mighty"—but enough has been said to make it clear that here is a work to be reckoned with, and to persuade our readers of the pleasure that is in store for them.

Sir Walter Besant has written so many novels that some of them must be poorer than the others, and there is no doubt that "The Changeling" is one of the least successful of them all. It is more discursive than usual, more obviously artificial, and has more resort to situations and coincidences of the kind that strain the credulity. It tells of a mother who, losing her infant child, seeks to spare its father the grief of the loss by putting another child in the vacant place. How this sin finds her out after many years, and how the history of the substituted child proves heredity to be stronger than environment, are the two main themes of this story, which is rather bewildering in its complications, and unimpressive in its outcome.

A few months ago, we noticed an extraordinary romance entitled "The Lake of Wine," by Mr. Bernard Capes. It will possibly be remembered that this title was derived from the fanciful name of a great ruby, for the discovery and possession of which many men ventured (and some of them lost) their lives. In reading "The Adventurers," by Mr. Marriott Watson, we find the same story, in its general outline, retold. The treasure in this case is gold and not jewels, but otherwise the similarity is striking. There is an ancient country house in England, and the treasure which it conceals is eagerly contended for by the owner of the house and the desperate gang of cutthroats who have learned of its existence. In both cases, also, the hiding-place of the treasure is as unknown to the one party as to the other. The chief difference is in the style of the two narratives, for that of "The Adventurers" is as plain and straightforward as that of "The Lake of Wine" is affected and tortuous. It is a rather daring thing, for either writer, thus to have framed in the setting of the nineteenth century conditions in a civilized country an action so full of lawlessness and bloody violence that it belongs rather to Turkey or to the sixteenth century. The story is certainly interesting, and its plot is most ingeniously contrived.

In "The Red Axe," Mr. Crockett departs from his wonted scenes and his well-worn Scots, to write of the robber barons of mediæval Germany. For once, he has for us no moss-hags and no stern Covenanters, but instead, Gothic towers and ruthless bands of the rough riders of several centuries ago. The book is very "bluggy." The hero is the son of the hereditary justiciar to the Dukes of the Wolf-

mark, and is himself called upon, in the due course of events, to take up the axe of the executioner. Thrills occur upon nearly every page of this story, which is so swift in its action that one gasps for breath in trying to keep up with it. There is a love-story, too, as tender as any that the author has imagined, and, altogether, the book affords much exciting entertainment.

"Grace O'Malley, Princess and Pirate" is surely a fetching title, and the covers of the book add pictorial effect to verbal by a poster-portrait of the heroine. The story turns out to be a wild history of love and revenge in Elizabethan Ireland, with the historical figure of the Earl of Desmond set among those drawn by the writer from his imagination. The story is related in the first person, and with the usual affectation of an archaic form of speech. But, despite the author's endeavor, his book is a rather dull one, and he misses the romantic touch of which such men as Mr. Bloundelle-Burton, for instance, know the secret so well.

The "Adventures of the Comte de la Muette during the Reign of Terror" is an interesting romance of a rather conventional sort, which tells how an aristocrat, by means of disguise, escaped massacre, and how he also saved the life of a fair aristocratic damsel, who naturally became his wife when their adventures were over. It is a picturesque and thrilling narrative, with the proper infusion of sentiment, studied from the memoirs of the period, and told with considerable dramatic effect.

Mr. Bloundelle-Burton is rapidly taking the place, if he has not already taken it, that clearly belongs to him among writers of historical romance. Few, if any, of his living fellow-workers in this field have a finer sense of the requirements of this form of fiction, or a better equipment for its production. In "The Scourge of God," he has taken for his theme the Huguenot persecutions that followed the Revocation. The scene is laid among the Cévennes, and the desolation wrought in that fair region by the Most Christian King's endeavor to stamp out a pestilent heresy is pictured with vivid and terrible effect. The monarch who was so justly called the "Scourge of God" does not appear personally in these pages, and the "femme funeste et terrible" at whose behest he acted appears only in two brief scenes; but, in a certain sense, these two personages dominate the history, and their figures ever loom up in the background of the imagination. The story is one of the best in style, construction, information, and graphic power, that have been written in recent years.

WILLIAM MORTON PAYNE.

A "History of the World from the Earliest Historical Time to the Year 1898," is the title of a volume prepared by Mr. Edgar Sanderson for "The Concise Knowledge Library" (Appleton). One rather gasps at the thought of such a book, but series have to exist, and volumes must be made to fit them. Mr. Sanderson is a careful historical scholar, and his book commands approval.

## BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS.

*New England  
letters and  
New England life.*

There are some things that would lead one to keep separate in the mind Mr. W. C. Lawton's "New England Poets" (Macmillan) and Mrs. Harriet H. Robinson's "Loom and Spindle" (Crowell). The latter book will be of value to the economist and the historian: Mr. Carroll D. Wright, who contributes an Introduction, adds his authority on this point. The former, as will be inferred by the readers of Mr. Lawton's recent book on Homer, will be useful mainly to the literary student. But the two books came to us at the same time, and they connect themselves in our mind. Mr. Lawton's book is a good statement of the position and the work of Emerson, Hawthorne, Longfellow, Whittier, Lowell, and Holmes. Mrs. Robinson's is a very interesting account of the life and characteristics of the Lowell mill-girls half a century ago. Mr. Lawton, as one may see from his title, emphasizes the idea that these poets were New England poets: that their lives and work was conditioned by their being born and living in New England. Now, New England in the middle of this century was certainly not all factory-life in Lowell,—and yet the change is not very severe from Lucy Larcom's "New England Girlhood" to Dr. Edward Everett Hale's "New England Boyhood." It is not that Emerson and Holmes, for instance, were of the stock of which mill-hands were made. But the old families from which they sprang never held themselves very far above the old families from which the mill-girls came, and in very many forms of thought and modes of feeling they never separated themselves at all. Everywhere the same church, the same school, the same town-meeting served for both, and much the same careers were open to both. The Brahmin caste was really not a caste, properly speaking, at all, for it never shunned communion with others. Of course these poets were of the picked New England stock, picked over in some cases for generations. That is true; but who picked them, and for whom were they picked? Who was it that was to understand them,—who did understand them, if it comes to that? Not more the mill-girls of Lowell than the students of Harvard, doubtless; but who were they? The old Lowell factory-life is especially interesting because particular circumstances gave the opportunity for presenting in great purity the type of New England, the worker, the worshipper, the lover of the things of the mind. This is seen in Mrs. Robinson's book, which is of these two the more interesting, for it deals with matters which are to the most of us half familiar; it opens a door into the past, as Lowell says, into a room that we have heard of but never entered; it tells us of a life eminently characteristic and now wholly passed away. But its interest, to us at least, is greatly heightened by the fact that it enables us to read the other book so much more understandingly. We rather wish that Mr. Lawton had been able to read

it before writing his own book. It makes one understand, better than before, all the six that he writes of except Hawthorne, and perhaps even Hawthorne. They are rightly called "New England" poets. But what is, or rather was, New England? That is something which we need not try to say just here. There are a hundred books to answer those that cannot remember, but the list will not be complete until it includes Mrs. Robinson's simple record of a phase long gone forever.

*France as  
elucidated by  
the Dreyfus case.*

France to-day, convulsed by the Dreyfus matter, presents a curious, a humiliating, yet a not altogether hopeless spectacle of national retrogression: curious to the social pathologist, humiliating to the optimistic champion of free institutions, not altogether, or indeed by any means, hopeless to those who understand the transient and superficial character of these periodic outbreaks of French, or perhaps more accurately speaking, Parisian hysteria. Broadly speaking, the Dreyfus case and the popular hallucinations attending it are the result of the momentary ascendancy of forces which the Revolution overthrew but unhappily could not extirpate. There were diseased parts in the national body which the rude and sometimes misapplied surgery of the *soi-disant* regenerators of France failed to cut away, and which could not have been quite cut away by far more skilful operators. Now a portion of the poisonous virus has worked its way to the surface; and the civilized world looks on in amazement at the spectacle of Jesuitry, bigotry, caste-tyranny, working their infamous will on an innocent man, quite as in the days of Calas and La Barre; while a populace that a decade ago celebrated the centenary of the fall of the Bastille stands by applauding and supporting the outrage. Unhappily, there is now no Voltaire to smite the evil. But the mind of France is saner and her conscience more sensitive than in the days when the "intellectuals" of Voltaire's century fought the battle against the foes of right and reason that M. Zola and his colleagues are fighting to-day; and there is good ground of hope that Frenchmen are even now shaking off the degrading hallucination that condemns the unhappy Dreyfus and the heroic Picquart to shame and torture, while the reptilian Esterhazy and the monstrous Drumont go unwhipt of justice. If there be to-day any rational being, outside of France, who is still unconvinced of the fact that Esterhazy is the man who ought to be where Dreyfus is, that he is the writer of the *bordereau* and the seller to the German *attaché* of the military secrets therein listed, we earnestly commend to him Mr. F. C. Conybeare's concise and conclusive little book entitled "The Dreyfus Case" (Dodd). Through the presentation of documents, facsimiles of handwriting, etc., and through its well-marshalled history of the successive stages and phases of the case, it puts beyond the shadow of a doubt the facts of the innocence of Dreyfus and the guilt of Esterhazy. The volume

is well furnished with portraits of the chief actors in this remarkable *cause célèbre*, beginning with the noble Picquart (one of the brightest names in the annals of contemporary France), and ending with Esterhazy, whose vice-seared face is a safe passport to the material hell of his antiquated faith.

*University  
addresses by  
Principal Caird.*

Admirable productions of their kind are the "University Addresses" delivered before the students of the University of Glasgow by the late Principal John Caird, and now reprinted by the Macmillan Co. in a neat volume of 380 odd pages, under the editorial supervision of Professor Edward Caird of Balliol College, Oxford. The addresses here collected are of two kinds: those customarily delivered by Principal Caird at the beginning of each session, on some subject connected with the studies of the University, or on the life and work of some great author with whose name one or other of these studies is representatively connected; and those addresses on some general topic of University Education which Principal Caird was in the habit of delivering to the graduates at the end of the session, after the graduation ceremonies. Of the former and more important class of addresses, the volume contains twelve. Of the graduation addresses, only two are given: "The Personal Element in Teaching," and "General and Professional Education." Principal Caird, in one notable passage, pays a tribute to the universities of Scotland that may be quoted here as suggesting a useful ideal not, we think, kept so fully in view as it should be in the great educational foundations of our own country: "It is the glory of our Scottish universities that they have never been made places of education for a class, that no costly arrangements render access to them possible only for the rich, and that when once he has crossed their doors a young man finds himself in a community where intellectual resource is the only wealth that wins respect, brain power the only power that tells, and where honor and distinction await the ablest and worthiest, and await these alone." This special tribute which Principal Caird felt in conscience justified in paying to the universities of his own country applies, we think, with equal justice to those of Germany and France. That any superiorities other than those of mind and character should, in an institution of learning, be the marks of its acknowledged aristocracy, seems anomalous enough; but we fear the anomaly is not unknown in republican America. Educators especially should find these sane and earnest addresses useful and stimulating.

*The recent  
bloody business  
in the Sudan.*

We confess we find little in Mr. G. W. Steevens's "With Kitchener to Khartum" (Dodd) that seems to us to justify the lavish encomiums heaped upon it by the higher class of English reviews. We can easily see why the ordinary newspaper should laud Mr. Steevens's book to the skies; for it contains just the sort of "hot stuff" that the ordinary newspaper has been

for the past year or so especially desirous of getting, and would have at almost any price. If war should break out to-morrow (which God forbid!) the enterprising owners of our "live up-to-date" newspapers might well put Mr. Steevens's book into the hands of the "bright young men" they proposed sending to the front, and say to them: "This is the kind of thing we want." Mr. Steevens's book, in fine, is a clever and well-spiced piece of war-time reporting, made in a hurry on the spot and meant for immediate home consumption: but it is nothing more than that. Its vogue with the British public is easily explained. The Sirdar is just now the British public's especial hero, and Mr. Steevens tells what he did and lauds him without stint or reservation for doing it; the British public, too, is for the first time in a quarter of a century or more unquestionably in a fighting mood, and Mr. Steevens's battle-pictures give it much the same sort of gratification that our own public gets from "kinetoscope" views of the more crucial and historic pugilistic events. Reading Mr. Steevens's cheery and often even joocular account of the Sudan campaign is almost as good (or as bad) as seeing the thing itself. Mr. Steevens has the knack of describing things vividly, and we don't mean to carp at him for giving his employers and the public their money's worth of gore and grewsomeness. But he might, it would seem, without loss of cash or credit, have written less flippantly, and with a more apparent sense of the fact that this tragic, if perhaps unavoidable, Sudan business — this scientific butchery of a half-armed mob of half-savage religionists — is a dark and deplorable episode in the history of the territorial conquests of Western civilization. Mr. Steevens, we are glad to note, appears to recognize the fact that, when the day of Omdurman was done, the palm of valor lay, not (broadly speaking) with the men who had been behind, but with those who had been before, the guns. The volume is supplied with maps and plans, and serves to convey a tolerably good idea of General Kitchener's methods of dealing with the problem his predecessors had so egregiously failed to solve.

*Parochial history  
extraordinary.*

Probably there is but one religious foundation in this country whose history, adequately told, would require more than a duodecimo volume of three or four hundred pages. That one is the Parish of Trinity Church, New York City. It is a notable parish in many respects. Its annals are closely connected with those of the city in which it exists. The duties and responsibilities of its rector are greater than those of some of the bishops. It celebrated its bicentennial in 1897, and the elegant volume setting forth the proceedings in the nine churches comprised in this immense city parish seems to have whetted the appetite of the parishioners for more history. So records running back to the early years of the seventeenth century have been ransacked, and the Rev. Dr. Dix, Rector, has begun the prepa-



ration of a complete history of the parish. The result thus far is a royal octavo volume of over 500 pages, bringing the narrative down to 1783,—that is to say, down to the close of the Revolutionary War and the opening of the history of the parish under new ecclesiastical relations. All this is given with the promise of an indefinite number of volumes in the future to bring the history down to the present time. The history is considerably more than a transcript of musty records. It contains some valuable contributions to general history. The author (who, because the task of research was necessarily committed to others, modestly claims to be merely an editor) is not a thrasher of old straw. He pursues an independent course, corrects some errors which have crept into general history, notably concerning the character of Governor Fletcher and that of Leisler; and even corrects errors into which he confesses himself to have been drawn in previous historical writings. The volume is handsomely printed, and illustrated with full-page portraits and facsimiles of documents. The publishers (G. P. Putnam's Sons) announce that 750 copies of this edition have been printed for sale.

Two recent books  
on Physiography.

A volume on "The Rivers of North America" (Putnam) is offered modestly by its author, Professor Israel C. Russell of the University of Michigan, as a "reading lesson for students" of physiography or geology. It proves to be a well-digested thesis upon the effects of rivers in fashioning the surfaces of the regions where they are generated or through which they flow. Each drop of aerial water does its work, infinitesimal though it may be. With its fellows, it takes certain substances into solution; others it holds in suspension; manifold more it pushes along, as, in obedience to gravity, it pursues its devious way toward a distant sea, ever wearing the channels through which it flows. Even if, sooner or later, it should be lifted again by evaporation, it will have contributed something, if it be only to lay down in another place the atom which its solvent power seized elsewhere. In time, such drops will have carved the mountains, filled and seamed the valleys, eroded the cañons, and transformed all the contours of the earth's surface; in time, no counteracting upheaval occurring, they will have removed all elevations, and restored old ocean's vast and solitary reign. Professor Russell's logical and lucid treatment of his subject makes his "reader" attractive for both scientist and layman. — Another volume from the same publishers, "Earth Sculpture," by Professor James Geikie of the University of Edinburgh, describes the configuration of the earth's surface as the resultant of every variety of physical activity, whether working internally or externally. The work includes the results of the latest geological surveys, notably those within the western half of the United States. The author has addressed the great body of intelligent readers not professionally versed in geology.

Scrap-book  
of the French  
Revolution.

Mrs. Elizabeth Wormeley Latimer's "Scrap-Book of the French Revolution" (McClurg) is made up of material gotten together by the author in the course of her work as a lecturer on the French Revolution. The book is frankly a compilation, and as such it has the distinctive merit that its contents are to a considerable extent drawn from unfamiliar and comparatively inaccessible sources. Of especial interest are the excerpts from the series of monographs on the events of the Revolution published in the Paris "Figaro" during the years 1893, 1894, and 1895. The volume opens with some rather interesting reminiscences of an American, Thomas Waters Griffith, who resided in Paris from 1791 to 1799, and was an eye-witness of many dramatic Revolutionary episodes. He saw, for instance, both Louis XVI. and his unhappy consort passing through the streets on their way to the scaffold—the former in "court-like dress" in "a handsome coach," the latter in "a common cart" like an ordinary malefactor, and attracting comparatively little attention from the populace. It is greatly to be regretted that Mr. Griffith was not a keener observer, or, at least, that he did not more fully realize the great historical and dramatic interest of the remarkable scenes he skims over so carelessly in his too cursory narrative. Mrs. Latimer's book contains a good deal of curious, suggestive reading, and deserves its popularity. There are twenty-nine portraits in half-tone, including an interesting one of the Rev. Eleazer Williams, the alleged "lost Dauphin," whose singular story is given in the closing chapters on "Louis XVII."

"The New  
Rhetoric."

Mr. A. G. Newcomer is one of those professors of rhetoric who believe that a writer should consider first what he would say, and only when that is settled should he consider what particular words to use. This obvious view is not common among our writers on rhetoric, although Mr. Newcomer's "Elements of Rhetoric" (Holt) is by no means the only book in recent years which has been based upon it. The older writers — Professor Bain, for instance, or Professor A. S. Hill — prefer to begin with a study of words. The latter especially did great things in the cause of diction. Their influence has been such that most people (even in college faculties) think that there is no rhetorical fault worse than misspelling or bad grammar: such, at least, are the only faults ever mentioned. The newer practise is really not new: it has the authority of every rhetorician who ever put pen to paper, from the days of Korax and Tisias down to the time that Dr. George Campbell, with his speculations on Good Usage, knocked the classical rhetoric into a cocked-up hat, so far as authority was concerned. We do not mean that Mr. Newcomer is a neo-Aristotelian, or any other such creature: his earlier book, which had something to do in bringing about the change of heart that is gradually taking place, was a very simple

talk to schoolboys and schoolgirls as to what they could write about best. It said nothing about Aristotle: but then, it had nothing of Campbell either. The present work, founded on the right theory, and the result of individual work of some years on the right lines, has a great deal in it that is direct and practical. We are glad to see it, and hope we may help it a bit toward a wide circulation.

It has been long years since a thoroughly up-to-date one-volume Bible Dictionary made its appearance. The numerous discoveries of recent years in Bible lands and adjacent lands, the new investigations in Biblical archaeology and in Biblical criticism, have demanded a re-writing of nearly every article in the Bible Dictionaries of a quarter of a century ago. Professor John D. Davis of Princeton Theological Seminary, with the coöperation of two of his colleagues, Drs. Warfield and Purves, and after three years of incessant labor, has produced the book that is needed (Westminster Press, Philadelphia). It is a volume of 800 pages, covering the whole range of Biblical themes, and of the First Book of Maccabees. It aims to confine itself to facts, and to facts of the Scriptures and of records and things which throw light on the Bible. It very wisely leaves out speculation about the Bible, which is usually short-lived and always of uncertain value. It is amply, almost profusely, illustrated with pictures, not of the imagination, but of the actual things themselves. Several up-to-date maps, based on the most recent discoveries and authorities, were prepared especially for this work. The articles are well-proportioned in length and fulness of treatment. Their position is that, not of a hide-bound conservative, but of a progressive and safe leader in the interpretation of the facts of the Bible. The up-to-date character, the fulness of illustration, the wealth of maps, the progressive position, and the cheapness of the volume ought to make this the one-volume Dictionary of the Bible for many years to come.

*A review of the century.*

In "The Wonderful Century" (Dodd), Mr. Alfred Russel Wallace discusses in two aspects the scientific achievements of the century now closing. In one group he enumerates the theoretical discoveries with the practical invention resting thereupon. His list includes twelve examples of the first—such as the conservation of energy, organic evolution, the ground theories of chemistry; and twelve of the second—as railways, telegraphs, photography, and the use of anæsthetics and antiseptics. With this list he compares all the discoveries of preceding ages, of which he names fifteen—as gravitation and the circulation of the blood, the art of printing, the mariner's compass, and the telescope. In a contrasted group of what he calls the failures of the century, the author enumerates subjects as to which he insists that the scientific world has fallen into lamentable errors, either by underrating or by

wholly ignoring their real significance and value, as in the neglect of phrenology and the opposition to hypnotism and psychical research; or by overvaluing what he holds to be delusive and mischievous, as vaccination and militarism, which latter he calls the curse of civilization. The book has an interest as illustrating the excursions of a distinguished naturalist into fields outside of his specialty. The first part of it almost any well-informed scientist might have written; the second part scarcely any such person would have written.

*Ferdinand Brunetière in English.*

We are glad to have an English translation, and one which has been made with unusual skill, of M. Ferdinand Brunetière's "Manual of the History of French Literature" (Crowell). The work is so masterly an example of such a history, so solid in its scholarship and so attractive in its setting-forth, that it is valuable both on its own account and as a model of how such a thing ought to be done. The plan is rather original. The text is a philosophical essay in the author's familiar manner, while the erudition is relegated to the footnotes which occupy about half of each page. The author calls his work "an application of the doctrine of Evolution to the history of a great literature." The translation bears the assumed name of "Ralph Dereghef." Sixteen portraits illustrate the volume. — We are glad also to welcome in this connection the volume of "Brunetière's Essays in French Literature," selected and translated by Mr. D. Nichol Smith, and imported by Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons. The volume includes seven of the author's most characteristic essays, and a special preface written by him for this translation.

*A minor biography of Gladstone.*

Sir Edward W. Hamilton's thoughtful and commendably temperate monograph on Gladstone (Scribner) has the *prima facie* recommendation of being from the pen of a man who knew the great statesman well for nearly forty years, and was closely associated with him during a considerable portion of that period. Sir Edward aims to convey to his readers a just notion of Mr. Gladstone the man, through describing some of his intellectual powers, characteristics, and accomplishments, some of his ways, aims, and objects, his likes and dislikes, and his general turn of mind. The little book is well worth reading, and while it cannot be said to throw any special new light on Mr. Gladstone's singularly complex character, its observations are in general just, well-weighed, and discriminating.

*Biography of a famous Scot.*

It would have been singularly improper to have had a "Famous Scots" series without a life of Sir William Wallace: scarcely a Scot is more famous. Yet it was no easy task to write that life. Too little is known of Wallace, for one thing; and for another, too little is known by the general reader of the history and general life of Scotland at the be-

ginning of the fourteenth century. At any rate, one gets but a hazy notion of the hero or of his opportunity, in the volume by Professor Murison (imported by Scribner). The chief figure is shadowy; the circumstances are like those of a dream. The result may be imagined: killings and burnings, victories and defeats, plottings and betrayals,—we get a confused vision of such matters, but no clear understanding. This volume is hardly as interesting as most of the series, a matter not entirely chargeable to the author. It gives us something of an account of a simple and violent career in a troublesome and complicated time. We think most readers will know more of Wallace after they have read it than before; but further it would be rather hard to go in the way of praise.

*Court of  
the Second  
Empire.*

M. de Saint-Amand's "The Court of the Second Empire, 1856-1858" (Scribner) is a rather exceptionally animated and interesting number of the sub-series of this brilliant writer's popular historical studies now current. The three years bridging the time from the Crimean War to the Italian war of 1859 form the epoch covered in this book. The salient episodes treated are the coronation of the Czar Alexander II., the Orsini attempt, and the diplomatic preludes to the war which led immediately to the liberation from Austrian rule of northern Italy. Separate chapters are devoted to Walewski, De Morny, and Cavour. There are four portraits.

#### BRIEFER MENTION.

"The More Excellent Way" (Oxford University Press) is a volume of brief selections in verse and prose, all relating to the "Life of Love," compiled by the Hon. Mrs. Lyttelton Gell. The very wide range of authors represented would seem to bear out the statement that "a poet without love were a physical and moral impossibility." The selections are admirably classified under appropriate readings, and have been chosen with great art and taste. Less, however, is to be said for the taste of the publishers. The combination of dark blue cover with pale-green edges makes a homely exterior; the same combination within, used for type and decorative designs, makes a striking but not beautiful printed page.

Mr. W. E. H. Lecky's "Democracy and Liberty" (Longmans) has just passed into a second edition, and the author avails himself of the opportunity thus presented to discuss, in a special introduction of some fifty pages, "the experience of the last eventful years." In the light of this experience, the outlook seems even gloomier than it did before, and the new introduction, to say nothing of the book itself, is far from cheerful reading. But the problems which it raises are to be solved only by facing them bravely and squarely; and no writer of our time brings to their discussion a more penetrative insight or a riper wisdom.

Judging from the example we have seen, the novel "Color Prints" of Miss Pamela Colman Smith should meet with considerable favor. The term "print" as

applied to these pictures seems to us ill-advised and misleading, as it naturally suggests the use of lithography or some other method of mechanical reproduction. In reality, the outline only of the picture is printed, this being then filled in by hand in water-color and retouched by the artist. The colors are chosen with taste, and are carefully applied, and the effect of the finished work is both artistic and pleasing. Five subjects have been issued, varying in price from two to five dollars each,—remarkably cheap, when the amount of work involved is considered. The prints are published by Mr. R. H. Russell.

Mr. Austin Dobson's fondness for the eighteenth century is shown once more in his volume of "Miscellanies" (Dodd). Nearly all of its thirteen papers concern themselves with books or authors of that period—as Goldsmith, Steele, Dr. Johnson, Gay; others have to do with London of that date or earlier. "Old Whitehall," with a reduced ground-plan of the Royal Palace as it was in the year 1680, and "Changes in Charing Cross," looking back to the time of Queen Elizabeth, are chapters to delight the antiquary; for of Dobson, as of his favorite Goldsmith, it may be said, "He touches nothing that he does not adorn."

A fifth edition of the late Professor Martin's "briefer course" in "The Human Body," revised by Dr. George Wells Fitz, has just been published by Messrs. Henry Holt & Co. The work still has the perfunctory chapter on narcotics, without which it could not be used in the schools of a number of States, but Dr. Fitz takes pains to state that this chapter "is retained against the best judgment of the reviser, who believes that the questions involved are ethical and not physiological." The book is, of course, aside from this defect, one of the best elementary manuals of human anatomy and physiology that have ever been written. In another text-book of the same subject, written by Dr. E. Franklin Smith, and published by Mr. William R. Jenkins, the chapter on narcotics volunteers the delightful statement that "teetotal drinks" contain from six to fourteen per cent of alcohol, coming somewhere between claret and champagne in the list.

"Where to Educate," published by Messrs. Brown & Co., Boston, is described as "a guide to the best private schools, higher institutions of learning, etc., in the United States." It is a volume of nearly four hundred pages, and is edited by Miss Grace Powers Thomas. She supplies a good deal of information that may give the book value for reference, but she has not always been on her guard. Among the Illinois institutions which are included we find, to our amazement, one of the chief offenders in the matter of fraudulent degrees, the establishment which more than any other has led to the proposed legislation which we discuss in the editorial pages of this issue.

Miscellaneous reading-books for the young are of all sorts nowadays. Among the more recent of them we mention "Uncle Robert's Geography" (Appleton), edited by Mr. F. W. Parker and Miss Nellie L. Helm; "Our Country's Flag and the Flags of Foreign Countries" (Appleton), by Dr. Edward S. Holden; "Poetry of the Seasons" (Silver), compiled by Miss Mary I. Lovejoy; "Historic Boston and Its Neighborhood" (Appleton), by Dr. Edward Everett Hale; "Heroes of the Middle West" (Ginn), by Mrs. Mary Hartwell Catherwood; and "First Steps in the History of Our Country" (Silver), by Messrs. W. A. Mowry and A. M. Mowry.



## LITERARY NOTES.

"Paul et Virginie," edited by Professor Oscar Kuhns, is one of the latest of the French texts published by Messrs. Henry Holt & Co.

A teacher's manual of "United States History in Elementary Schools," by Mrs. L. L. W. Wilson, is published by the Macmillan Co.

"Plane and Solid Geometry," by Dr. James Howard Gore, is an elementary text-book, just published by Messrs. Longmans, Green, & Co.

"The Attic Theatre," by Mr. A. E. Haigh, has passed into a second and considerably enlarged edition, which comes to us from Mr. Henry Frowde of the Oxford Clarendon Press.

A "Critique of Some Recent Subjunctive Theories," by Mr. Charles Edwin Bennett, forms No. IX. of the "Cornell Studies in Classical Philology," published by the Macmillan Co.

"A Complete Latin Grammar," by Professor Albert Harkness, is the final product of many revisions and much teaching experience. The American Book Co. are the publishers.

"The Rig-Veda Mantras in the Grhya Sutras" is a doctor's dissertation prepared for the Johns Hopkins University by Mr. Edwin W. Fay, and published at Roanoke, Virginia.

As a valentine to their friends, the "Brothers of the Book" have issued a beautifully-printed leaflet containing Mrs. Rosamund Marriott-Watson's poem, "Old Books, Fresh Flowers."

"The Principles of Agriculture" (Macmillan), by Mr. L. H. Bailey, is a "text-book for schools and rural societies," written from the widest knowledge of its subject, and admirably adapted for its purpose.

Miss Bertha Ellen Lovewell has edited "The Life of St. Cecilia" from a number of Middle English manuscripts, and the monograph is published by Messrs. Lamson, Wolfe, & Co. in the series of "Yale Studies in English."

Miss Emma Helen Blair has prepared a valuable "Annotated Catalogue of Newspaper Files in the Library of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin." The work, which is a pamphlet of nearly four hundred pages, appears as a state publication.

"A Short History of France" and "A Short History of Germany," both by Miss Mary Platt Parmele, are now published by Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons in new editions, uniform with the similar volumes upon England, Spain, and the United States.

Messrs. Allyn & Bacon publish two volumes of English texts: "Select Essays and Poems" of Emerson, edited by Miss Eva March Tappan; and "Three Narrative Poems" ("The Ancient Mariner," "Sohrab and Rustum," "Enoch Arden"), edited by Mr. George A. Watrous.

Mr. F. C. Burnand, the editor of "Punch," has consented to write a series of articles giving personal reminiscences of most of the authors and artists connected with that famous periodical during the last twenty-five years. The articles will appear in the "Pall Mall Magazine."

A series of "Ethno-Geographic Readers" (Heath), by Mr. Frederick Starr, is to consist of three volumes—"Strange Peoples," "American Indians," and "How Men Do." The first and third of these are still in pre-

paration, but the second has been issued, and proves to be a very readable account of the North American Indian, written in simple language, and attractively illustrated. The reading-lesson should be welcome to the boy who takes it from such a book as this.

The late A. H. Green of Oxford left the manuscript of an unfinished text-book of elementary geology, and his widow commissioned Mr. J. F. Blake to prepare it for publication. The result is a volume called "First Lessons in Modern Geology," published by the Oxford University Press.

The publishers of the Old South Leaflets have just issued two numbers entitled respectively "Lafayette in the American Revolution" and "Letters of Washington and Lafayette." The publication is most timely in view of the Lafayette monument, the gift of the American people, to be erected in Paris next year.

Mr. John B. Dunbar has edited Cooper's "The Last of the Mohicans," for the series of "Standard English Classics" published by Messrs. Ginn & Co. It makes an attractive volume of more than five hundred pages, and the boy who has it for a school-book will surely think that his lot is cast in pleasant places.

"The Technology Review" is a new quarterly periodical published by the Association of Class Secretaries of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It is modelled rather closely upon the "Harvard Graduates Magazine," which amounts to saying that it is a dignified and creditable production which we shall welcome to our table.

The volume of "Studies in American History" just published by Mr. J. H. Miller, Lincoln, Nebraska, includes the ten pamphlets of "source extracts" made by Mr. Howard W. Caldwell, which we have mentioned from time to time as they have come to us, and for which we are happy to find a word of renewed commendation.

"The Uncommercial Traveller," with four illustrations by Mr. Harry Furniss, has been added to the handsome "Gadshill" edition of Dickens, imported by Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons. The spirit of Cruikshank and "Phiz" seems to have caught successfully by Mr. Furniss in his pictures, the frontispiece portrait being especially good.

Pending the construction of a new and modern building, which will be planned to meet the needs of their constantly increasing business, the Western Methodist Book Concern will occupy the large corner store of the Edson Keith Building, Wabash Avenue and Monroe Street, a region that seems likely to become the "booksellers' row" of Chicago.

"The World's Painters and their Pictures" (Ginn), by Mr. Deristhe L. Hoyt, is an elementary descriptive and historical manual intended for school use. It is little more than a compendium of the barest facts and the most condensed critical judgments, supplied with enough process illustrations to save the text from being absolutely meaningless to a young student.

The total destruction by fire of Messrs. A. C. McClurg & Co.'s fine Chicago bookstore, which occurred on the 12th inst., is an event not measurable by the money loss alone, although this approaches the sum of half a million dollars. The store was renowned as one of the largest and best in the world, and its vast stock contained many rare items that cannot be replaced, autograph copies, books in exquisite foreign bindings, treasures of the bookhunter and bibliophile, by whom the

loss will be especially deplored. We are glad to announce that the firm already occupies new quarters at the corner of Wabash Avenue and Monroe Street, one square south of the old location.

We have received from the Century Co. the two bound volumes of "St. Nicholas" for 1898, as well as the volume of the "Century Magazine" for the half-year ending last October. There is a good deal of war in these volumes, which is natural enough, but there are also other features of interest, including (as far as the "Century" volume is concerned) Dr. Mitchell's "Francois" and a half dozen of Mr. Cole's superb wood-engravings.

The death of Archibald Lampman, on the tenth of this month, at the early age of thirty-eight, is no small loss to Canadian literature and English poetry. His two volumes, "Among the Millet" and "Lyrics of Earth," together with his many contributions to the periodicals, gave him a high place among that remarkable group of young Canadian poets whose work has made us here in the United States look somewhat searchingly to our own laurels.

Professor William Morris Davis, with the aid of Mr. William Henry Snyder, has prepared a school "Physical Geography" which is published by Messrs. Ginn & Co. It is a volume of ordinary dimensions — not the extraordinary ones that used to be associated with text-books of this subject — very abundantly illustrated, and thoroughly praiseworthy in its presentation of theories and facts. The name of Professor Davis, indeed, is all the guarantee of excellence that such a work needs.

That readable literary magazine, "The Bookman," announces the publication in its pages of Mr. Paul Leicester Ford's historical novel of the American Revolution, "Janice Meredith," the first instalment to appear in the March number. This story has already, we believe, been running for several issues in "Collier's Weekly." The "syndicate" method of publication, it would thus appear, is to be extended to the monthly magazines, — a doubtful experiment, as it seems to us.

A considerable quantity of French lyrical poetry, in which the most recent singers are fairly represented, is given us in the volume of "French Lyrics" which Professor Arthur Graves Canfield has edited for Messrs. Henry Holt & Co. Upwards of sixty poets are included, with an average of four pieces each, although the space given to Hugo, Lamartine, Musset, Leconte de Lisle, and M. Sully-Prudhomme makes this statement one to be taken with allowances. The book is excellent in every way — in taste, scholarship, and sense of proportion.

The Committee on Libraries and Schools of the National Educational Association is at present engaged in collecting materials for a report to be made next July. The subjects under consideration include the preparation of graded lists of books suitable for children, the correlation of public library and school work, normal school work in the use of books by teachers, and other related topics. There is a wide field of usefulness before this Committee, and the coöperation of all interested persons is solicited by the chairman, Mr. J. C. Dana, Springfield, Mass.

Messrs. G. P. Putnam's Sons announce the publication of "The American Anthropologist," a new quarterly journal established under the auspices of the anthropological section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The Board of Editors

comprises such men as Messrs. D. G. Brinton, F. W. Putnam, W. H. Holmes, Franz Boas, and J. W. Powell — in a word, the most distinguished American scholars in this branch of science. Each number will contain two hundred pages of text and illustrations. Four dollars is the annual subscription.

The Association of Collegiate Alumne has recently added to its publications a "Magazine Number" which we have examined with much interest. No announcement is made of its continuation as a serial publication, but we wish that such an undertaking might prove practicable, for a monthly, or even a quarterly, periodical of this character would be a welcome addition to our educational literature. The contributors include such women as Mrs. Alice Upton Pearmain, Miss Abby Leach, Miss Marion Talbot, Miss Emily James Smith, Miss M. Carey Thomas, Miss Louise Brownell, and Mrs. Paul Shorey. Mrs. Shorey's interesting paper upon "The Collegiate Alumne and the Public Schools of Chicago" affords a typical illustration of the sort of work the Association is doing, good unobtrusive work of a kind that might accomplish much for the betterment of public education. The publication is issued from Richmond Hill, New York.

#### LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

[The following list, containing 65 titles, includes books received by THE DIAL since its last issue.]

##### HISTORY.

- The Story of France. From the earliest times to the Consulate of Napoleon Bonaparte. By Thomas E. Watson. Vol. I., To the End of the Reign of Louis XV. 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 712. Macmillan Co. \$2.50.
- The Story of the Civil War. By John Codman Ropes, LL.D. Part II., The Campaigns of 1863. With maps and plans, large 8vo, uncut, pp. 475. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$2.50.
- America in Hawaii: A History of United States Influence in the Hawaiian Islands. By Edmund James Carpenter. Illus., 16mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 275. Small, Maynard & Co. \$1.50.
- Second Annual Report of the Historical Manuscripts Commission of the American Historical Association. Large 8vo, uncut, pp. 679. Government Printing Office. Paper.
- Rhode Island and the Formation of the Union. By Frank Greene Bates, Ph.D. Large 8vo, uncut, pp. 220. "Columbia College Studies." Macmillan Co. Paper.
- A Short History of France, and A Short History of Germany. By Mary Platt Parmele. 12mo. Charles Scribner's Sons. Each, 60 cts. net.

##### BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIRS.

- My Inner Life: Being a Chapter in Personal Evolution and Autobiography. By John Beattie Crozier. Large 8vo, uncut, pp. 562. Longmans, Green, & Co. \$4.50.
- John Sullivan Dwight, Brook-Farmer, Editor, and Critic of Music. By George Willis Cooke. With portrait, 8vo, uncut, pp. 297. Small, Maynard & Co. \$2.

##### GENERAL LITERATURE.

- A History of English Romanticism in the Eighteenth Century. By Henry A. Beers. 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 455. Henry Holt & Co. \$2.
- Plains and Uplands of Old France: A Book of Verse and Prose. By Henry Copley Greene. Illus., 16mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 139. Small, Maynard & Co. \$1.50.
- Théophile: A Miracle Play. By Henry Copley Greene. With frontispiece, 16mo, uncut, pp. 32. Small, Maynard & Co. \$1. net.
- Fire-side Fancies. By Beulah C. Garretson. 16mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 220. J. B. Lippincott Co. \$1.25.
- Adobeland Stories. By Verner Z. Reed. 12mo, uncut, pp. 179. Richard G. Badger & Co. \$1.
- If Tam O'Shanter'd Had a Wheel, and Other Poems and Sketches. By Grace Duffie Boylan. Illus., 12mo, uncut, pp. 222. E. R. Herrick & Co. \$1.25.

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Complete Works of Robert Browning. "Camberwell" edition. Edited by Charlotte Porter and Helen A. Clarke. In 12 vols., with photogravure frontispieces, 24mo, gilt tops. T. Y. Crowell & Co. Boxed, \$9.

Eighteenth Century Letters. Edited by R. Brimley Johnson. In 2 vols., with photogravure portraits, 12mo, gilt tops, uncut. Henry Holt & Co. Per vol., \$1.75 net. The Virginiana. By W. M. Thackeray. "Biographical" edition, with introduction by Anne Thackeray Ritchie. Illus., 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 609. Harper & Brothers. \$1.75.

## POETRY.

Wessex Poems, and Other Verses. By Thomas Hardy; illus. by the author. 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 210. Harper & Brothers. \$1.75.

Along the Trail: A Book of Lyrics. By Richard Hovey. 16mo, pp. 115. Small, Maynard & Co. \$1.50.

## FICTION.

The Open Question: A Tale of Two Temperaments. By C. E. Ralmond. 12mo, pp. 523. Harper & Brothers. \$1.50.

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## TRAVEL AND DESCRIPTION.

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A Gold Hunter's Experience. By Chalkley J. Hambleton. 16mo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 116. Chicago: Privately printed.

## SCIENCE.

The History of Mankind. By Professor Friedrich Ratzel; trans. from the 2d German edition by A. J. Butler, M.A.; with introduction by E. B. Tylor, D.C.L. Vol. III., completing the work. Illus. in colors, etc., large 8vo, gilt top, pp. 560. Macmillan Co. \$4.

The Foundations of Zoology. By William Keith Brooks, Ph.D. Large 8vo, uncut, pp. 339. "Columbia University Biological Series." Macmillan Co. \$2.50 net.

A Guide to the Study of the Geological Collections of the New York State Museum. By Frederick J. H. Merrill, Ph.D. Illus., large 8vo, pp. 262. Albany: University of the State of New York. Paper, 40 cts.

## POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC STUDIES.

Democracy and Liberty. By William Edward Hartpole Lecky. New edition; in 2 vols., 12mo, gilt tops, uncut. Longmans, Green, & Co. \$5.

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Slav or Saxon: A Study of the Growth and Tendencies of Russian Civilization. By William Dudley Foulke. Second edition, revised; 12mo, pp. 141. "Questions of the Day." G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.

Social Settlements. By C. R. Henderson. 18mo, pp. 196. New York: Lenthion & Co. 50 cts.

History of State Banking in Maryland. By Alfred Cookman Bryan, Ph.D. Large 8vo, uncut, pp. 144. "Johns Hopkins University Studies." Paper.

## THEOLOGY AND RELIGION.

The Study of Holy Scripture: A General Introduction. By Charles Augustus Briggs, D.D. Large 8vo, pp. 688. Charles Scribner's Sons. \$3. net.

Religion in Greek Literature: A Sketch in Outline. By Lewis Campbell, M.A. Large 8vo, uncut, pp. 423. Longmans, Green, & Co. \$5.

The Kingdom (Basileia): An Exegetical Study. By George Dana Boardman. 8vo, pp. 348. Charles Scribner's Sons. \$2.

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## REFERENCE.

General Index to the Library Journal, Vols. 1—22 (September 1876, to December, 1897). Large 8vo, pp. 130. New York: The Library Journal.

Where to Educate: A Guide to the Best Private Schools and Higher Institutions of Learning in the United States. Edited by Grace Powers Thomas. Illus., large 8vo, pp. 382. Boston: Brown & Co. \$3.

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The Principles of Agriculture: A Text-Book for Schools and Rural Societies. Edited by L. H. Bailey. Illus., 16mo, pp. 300. "Rural Science Series." Macmillan Co. \$1.25.

The Human Body: A Text-Book of Anatomy, Physiology, and Hygiene. By H. Newell Martin, D.Sc. Fifth edition, revised by George Wells Fitz, M.D. Illus., 12mo, pp. 408. Henry Holt & Co. \$1.20.

Elements of Rhetoric: A Course in Plain Prose Composition. By Alphonso G. Newcomer. 12mo, pp. 382. Henry Holt & Co. \$1.

French Lyrics. Selected and edited by Arthur Graves Canfield. 16mo, pp. 382. Henry Holt & Co. \$1.

Sainte-Pierre's Paul et Virginie. Edited by Oscar Kuhns. 16mo, pp. 160. Henry Holt & Co. 50 cts.

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American Indians. By Frederick Starr. Illus., 12mo, pp. 227. D. C. Heath & Co. 45 cts.

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

The Attic Theatre: A Description of the Stage and Theatre of the Athenians, and of the Dramatic Performances at Athens. By A. E. Haigh, M.A. Second edition, revised and in part rewritten. Illus., large 8vo, uncut, pp. 420. Oxford University Press. \$3.10.

La Livres du Gouvernement des Rois: A XIIIth Century French Version of Egidio Colonna's Treatise "De Regimine Principum." Now First Published from the Kerr MS. Edited by Samuel Paul Molenaar, A.M. With frontispiece, 8vo, gilt top, uncut, pp. 461. Macmillan Co. \$3. net.

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